

## Qatari newspaper slams Arab League

DOHA (AFP) — A Qatari newspaper on Sunday rebuked the Arab League for its "silence" over a coup attempt that was foiled in Doha more than a week ago. "The Arab League retains total silence on a low plot which targeted Qatar's security, more than one week after it was aborted," according to the Al Watan newspaper, which reflects official views. "Such complete silence raises questions about the (Cairo-based) League's ability to settle crises between member countries," the newspaper said. Qatar called for an urgent meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to inform it about the coup attempt on Feb. 17 and accused GCC members of failing to condemn the events. Oman, which currently chairs the GCC, was the only Gulf state to condemn the coup attempt. Besides Qatar and Oman, the GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Doha accuses its former leader Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, who has lived in exile since he was ousted by his son last June, of having ordered the coup with foreign help. But Sheikh Khalifa, who now lives in Abu Dhabi, denied it.

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## 26 killed, 77 injured in bomb attacks in Israel Arafat condemns; Peres vows to pursue peace, fight terrorism

WEST JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Islamic bombers killed 26 people and wounded 77 in two explosions in Israel on Sunday, dealing a blow to Prime Minister Shimon Peres's election campaign.

The militant group Hamas said it carried out the attacks to avenge the killing last month of its master bomber, Yehya Ayyash, dubbed "the engineer."

Powerful blasts tore through a commuter bus in Jerusalem and a bus top in the southern town of Ashkelon during the morning rush hour, scattering body parts over a wide area. It was the bloodiest day in Israel since the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in 1993.

The bombings are a political nightmare for Mr. Peres who has called early elections for May 29 on the platform of making peace with Arabs. Israel had been on alert ever since Mr. Ayyash was blown up by a booby-trapped cellular telephone in Gaza on Jan. 5. Hamas blamed Israel for his death.

A 10-kilogramme bomb packed with ball-bearings and nails ripped apart a bus near Jerusalem's central bus station, killing 24 people and wounding 49, a police spokesman said. Hospital sources said 14 were critically wounded.

Fifty minutes later a second explosion killed two people near a bus stop and soldiers' hitchhiking station in Ashkelon.

"The cells of the engineer" Yehya Ayyash announce their responsibility for the two explosive operations that occurred Sunday morning 25 February 1996 in the heart of occupied Jerusalem and in Ashkelon," said a faxed statement signed by Students of the Engineer.

Mr. Peres temporarily froze negotiations with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat but vowed to continue Middle East peace talks. He dismissed questions about

damage to his election chances.

"That's the last question you should have asked today," Mr. Peres told a reporter at a news conference.

Angry crowds shouted "Peres go home. Death to the Arabs," when he briefly visited the gruesome scene of the Jerusalem bombing. Mr. Peres feared such an attack could swing security-conscious Israelis towards the opposition Likud party which opposes Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Peres, leader of the Labour party, enjoyed a 20-point opinion poll lead over Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu before the attacks.

Mr. Netanyahu called the attack a national calamity.

"On a day like this we won't go into the political debate," Mr. Netanyahu told Reuters.

Mr. Peres called on Mr. Arafat to crack down on militants in the Palestinian-ruled West Bank and Gaza Strip. Security sources said Palestinian police began arresting Islamic activists on Saturday fearing an attack. They detained about 40 suspected Hamas activists after the bombings.

"This is not a military operation. This is a terrorist operation," Mr. Arafat told reporters. "I condemn it completely. It is not against only civilians but against the whole peace process."

Hamas and another group, Islamic Jihad, had killed nearly 80 people in suicide bombings since Mr. Peres's predecessor Yitzhak Rabin made peace with the Palestinians in September 1993.

Body parts littered Jerusalem's Jaffa road after the explosion tore apart an Egged bus at 6.46 a.m. (0446 GMT). A taxi van, cars and another bus stopped alongside the bus at traffic lights were also damaged.

Dazed bystanders wept as rabbis collected body parts strewn over a wide area, including trees and the balcony

of a fifth floor apartment.

A makeshift memorial of candles and a twisted piece of metal from the bus was set up on the sidewalk as people chanted Psalms. Police said right-wing Israeli groups planned to hold a night-time protest vigil at the site.

Eyal Cohen, a 25-year-old construction worker who lives nearby, said: "There were pieces of bodies everywhere. I don't know what they were. It was very hard to know. We went down and everything was disaster. I saw parts of bodies. The religious people came and began to pick them up."

Mr. Peres vowed to continue fighting Hamas and Islamic Jihad and ordered the rescaling of borders with the West Bank and Gaza which were reopened after a long closure last Friday.

"Terrorism, however painful, will not determine our fate," Mr. Peres said.

Political analysts said a revenge attack for Mr. Ayyash had been expected and damage to Mr. Peres's campaign could be limited.

"If this ends with what happened today, the influence won't be devastating," said Shimon Shiffer, diplomatic correspondent for Israel's biggest daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

"But if we will be witnesses during the next three months to phenomena of this kind time after time, it will be devastating," said Mr. Shiffer, now reporting on his fifth Israeli election.

Israel's mainstream politicians from right and left urged calm following the deadly bombings.

But far-right nationalists were quick to blame Mr. Peres, saying his decision to lift a 12-day closure of the Palestinian territories on Friday had opened the door for the attacks.

Bombs set off by Islamic radicals killed at least 23 people and wounded 50 in a

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A general view of the explosion that blew up an inner-city bus in downtown Jerusalem early morning Sunday and left 26 people dead and 77 wounded. Behind the remains of the bus is the city's main artery Jaffa Road and in the background, the city centre (photo by David Silverman-Reuters)

## Sanaa accepts French draft to settle island conflict

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen has agreed to a French blueprint to resolve its standoff with Eritrea over a chain of strategic Red Sea islands and prevent renewed fighting, the Yemen Times said in its Monday edition. The "agreement of principles" calls on the two sides to refrain from using force and seek arbitration before a panel of judges from the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the independent English-language daily said. "Yemen agrees to the French proposal," Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani told the Yemen Times. The paper published the draft which it said France would submit formally to both sides later next week as well as to Egypt and Ethiopia, which have also mediated in the conflict, and to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali. If both sides agree a signing ceremony would be arranged, probably in Cairo, it said. Eritrea captured the island of Hanish Al Kabir (Greater Hanish) after three days of fighting in December last year. The Hanish islands, to which both sides claim sovereignty in the absence of an international treaty, control access to the Bab Al-Mandab straits between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

## Jordan strongly condemns attacks

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan Sunday strongly condemned the bomb explosions in Israel that caused the death and injury of almost 100 people.

His Majesty King Hussein described the bombings as aimed at sabotaging the Middle East peace process.

"I feel pain and disgust at these incidents which are attempts aimed at torpedoing the peace process and causing the loss of life of innocent people," the King said before his departure on visits to the United Kingdom and the United States. (See story on back page)

"It is clear that there are people who do not want peace and are trying to ruin the chance of a comprehensive settlement, and these are our enemies and the enemies of peace and life," the King told reporters at the airport.

The two attacks which caused 26 deaths and more than 70 injuries are the deadliest since the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords were signed in 1993 and were claimed by the militant Islamic group Hamas, which opposes the peace process.

Asked to comment on the killing of the two senior Iraqi defectors in Baghdad, the King said "I am disgusted by what has happened and I am unable to express myself about this terrible matter."

"I think the change in Iraq is inevitable. Things cannot go on this way," the King said.

Earlier King Hussein called Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and expressed his condolences on the death of innocent people. He also sent a cable of condolences to Mr. Peres and

another to President Ezer Weizman.

In his cable the King said he was shocked by the two attacks stressing the need for combating terrorism which he said has caused so much damage to this region for a long time. He said that there was need to pursue the work for the building of a comprehensive peace.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, also condemned the two attacks, describing them as criminal as they aimed at undermining the peace process.

"These acts aim at ruining co-existence among citizens of different faiths and religions and should be strongly condemned particularly as they took place in Jerusalem which stands out as a symbol of peace."

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti also condemned the attacks.

In a telephone call to Mr. Peres the prime minister said that extra efforts ought to be exerted to pursue the peace process to achieve a comprehensive settlement, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The Prime Minister also called Palestine President Yasser Arafat and the two agreed on full cooperation to abort all attempts by forces hostile to peace, Petra said.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher deplored the attacks and told Petra that "acts like these have no place in a civilised world as they can only cause bloodshed. We firmly believe that the only response to these attacks is determined efforts to pursue the peace process and to achieve the aspired comprehensive peace."

## U.N. investigating teams arrive in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Two U.N. teams investigating Iraq's chemical and germ warfare programmes have arrived here in the wake of the killing of a defector who revealed weapons secrets to the United Nations last year.

The teams arrived on Saturday hours after the announcement of the death of General Hussein Kamel, who defected to Jordan last August and returned to Baghdad last Tuesday hoping for a pardon from President Saddam Hussein.

The 19-member chemical weapons team, led by Cees Wolterbeek, and the seven-member germ warfare team, headed by Richard Spertzel, are to spend a week in Baghdad, U.N. officials said.

A U.N. official said the two teams "started working as soon as they arrived."

Their mission is to "verify information presented last year by Baghdad to the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with dismantling Iraq and to travel to certain sites," an official said.

Under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf War to

free Kuwait, Iraq must dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and submit to long-term weapons monitoring before a lifting of the U.N. embargo on Iraq.

During his last mission to Baghdad in November, UNSCOM chairman Rolf Ekeus received a list of dates and places where biological weapons were destroyed. Mr. Ekeus said the information had to be verified.

In December, Mr. Ekeus reported that inspectors found guidance systems for long-range missile in the Tig-

ris River and said that Baghdad was continuing its activities on banned missiles.

Hussein Kamel, who was viewed as the architect of Iraq's programmes for weapons of mass destruction, revealed details about them last year to UNSCOM after he defected to Jordan on August 8.

Hussein Kamel, two of his brothers and their father were shot dead on Friday by relatives who were trying to restore family honour tarnished by the defections, the authorities said.

## Kuwaiti lawyers call for war crimes tribunal for Iraqi regime leaders

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti lawyers called on Sunday for a war crimes tribunal to be set up to try Iraqi officials, including members of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council and staff of President Saddam Hussein.

The Kuwait news agency said the lawyers had drafted charges against 110 Iraqis for their activities during Iraq's 1990 to 1991 occupation of Kuwait.

None of the 110 Iraqi officials was named.

The lawyers want an international tribunal on the lines of a panel formed to try alleged Bosnian war criminals.

"Further steps are likely to bring these criminals before a competent international court," the official agency reported Kuwait University law professor Ahmad Al Samdan as saying.

"There are contacts and moves being made to push this process forward," he said without elaborating.

Kuwait's government for several months has been seeking advice from experts in international law about how war crimes charges could be pursued against Iraq, officials have said.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Samdan's work was part of this effort or whether it has official status. But Mr. Samdan said his team had received requests for information about its research from the ministries of foreign affairs and justice.

Mr. Samdan's team based the charges on thousands of Iraqi intelligence documents left behind by Iraqi forces who fled Kuwait at the end of the Gulf war.

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## Anbari reports to government

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A senior Iraqi official has returned home to brief President Saddam Hussein's government on his talks with U.N. officials in New York about an oil-for-food deal, officials said Sunday.

Abdul Amir Al Anbari, the head of the Iraqi delegation, completed two weeks of talks last Monday which the official Iraqi news agency (INA) described as "positive."

Mr. Anbari said last week that the two sides had only identified problems that had to be resolved before Iraq is allowed to resume oil exports to raise money to buy food and medicine.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said the talks with the U.N. could resume in March.

Last Thursday the United Nations spelled out the remaining steps which could lead to a formal agreement allowing Baghdad to export \$1 billion of oil per quarter to raise money for humanitarian supplies, under international

control. The quantity would amount to more than 700,000 barrels per day at current prices.

U.N. spokeswoman Sylvia Na Foa said the remaining steps included procedures for implementation to be adopted by the U.N. sanctions committee monitoring Iraqi compliance with U.N. resolutions.

They also include the selection of a bank where escrow accounts would be held to control revenues from the oil sales, and selection and appointment of independent oil inspection agents to assist the sanctions committee.

Iraq has been under a tight oil and trade embargo regime since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The official Iraqi newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said Sunday that the resumption of Iraqi crude exports "was the only way to prevent a third oil shock before the end of

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## Saadoun: Ties with Jordan improving

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament speaker signalled a further thaw in relations with Jordan by saying on Sunday Amman was adopting interesting new policies that were in contrast to its sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The position of Jordan since the Iraqi invasion until a few months ago is something that cannot be forgotten," the speaker, Ahmad Al Saadoun, said by telephone.

"But now there are some changes taking place in Jordan and we have to follow these up."

"We have to be a little bit cautious, but there is some kind of change going on," said Mr. Saadoun, under the constitution the

third most senior official in the country.

Mr. Saadoun has long been a vitriolic critic of Jordan's sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

His comments on Sunday were the first he has given that even remotely recognise Jordan's continued attempts to mend ties.

Kuwait and other Gulf states downgraded relations and cut off large financial aid to Jordan and some other Arab and African states over their refusal to support a U.S.-led military coalition that liberated Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Saadoun has regularly spoken in the assembly of what he has called Am-

man's betrayal of the small Gulf state.

On Sunday he said signs of change included a recent change of government that installed former foreign minister Abdul Karim Kabariti as prime minister.

Mr. Saadoun said he would watch closely the new government's policies as they were presented to parliament, in particular its position on relations with Iraq.

King Hussein cabled Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah on Saturday in the first publicly reported cable since the 1990 Gulf crisis.

The cable reflected a further recovery in ties with Kuwait.

## France discounts Iraqi minister's visit

PARIS (R) — French officials on Sunday discounted a surprise visit to Paris by Iraq's agriculture minister, saying the visit was a purely private one and no ministerial talks were planned.

"No. I absolutely do not have time this week," French Farm Minister Philippe Vasseur told Reuters in response to an Iraqi report that he would meet Iraq's agriculture minister Abdulillah Mahmoud Saleh.

A French foreign ministry spokesman said he had no knowledge of the visit and could make no comment. A Farm Ministry official said no official French organisation was involved in planning it.

The official Iraqi news agency INA had reported that Mr. Saleh was in Paris to visit a farm show and to expand relations, especially in the sphere of agriculture.

It quoted him as saying that he would meet French officials to discuss "the possibility of French companies supplying Iraq with agricultural machinery and training Iraqi cadres."

"The Iraqi minister will also meet the French minister of agriculture and representatives of French companies," INA said, adding that Mr. Saleh had been invited by the Iraqi-French trade and industry council, a private group.

Organisers of the

annual French agriculture show confirmed that Mr. Saleh was expected to visit the show on Tuesday and would be received like any other special guest.

Iraq was one of the top outlets for French farm goods before U.N. sanctions were imposed on Baghdad in 1990. France, keen to revive the lucrative trade, advocates easing or lifting the U.N. curbs on Iraqi oil exports.

It upgraded its diplomatic representation in Iraq last year, sending in a senior diplomat to run its interests section in Baghdad.

But Mr. Saleh's visit seemed bound to embarrass the government, coming so soon after two defector sons-in-law of President Saddam Hussein were killed on their return to Iraq.







## Srou calls on Bahrain opposition to seek dialogue, exercise reason in conflict

MANAMA (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srou Sunday called on the opposition groups in Bahrain to resort to dialogue and reason and to avoid acts of sabotage aimed at destroying their country and harming national interests.

In an interview published in the Bahraini daily Akhbar Al Khaleej, Mr. Srou said: "We reject acts of terrorism and call for wisdom and condemn all forms of violence of any form." The speaker was referring to the current disturbances in Bahrain.

With violence the opposition groups are destroying many of the country's achievements of which the Arab nation is proud, said Mr. Srou.

Referring to Jordanian relations with the Gulf countries, Mr. Srou said that the two sides have overcome the crisis that



Saad Hayel Srou

marred bilateral relations. He added that progress in developing ties was continuing.

He said Jordan seeks to pursue all efforts to maintain strong brotherly ties with the Gulf states.

Mr. Srou also described the Jordanian-Palestinian relations as excellent, expressing hope that the

Palestinians will be able to build their national institutions and establish their independent state on their soil.

He said Jordan will continue to provide support to the Palestinians in all fields, adding that the Kingdom's Parliament is closely linked with the Palestine National Council and hopes for further cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

He called for the restoration of solidarity among Arab states and said he hoped that these states will grant their citizens freedom to participate in the decision-making process of their countries.

On parliamentary relations with Islamic countries, Mr. Srou called on these parliaments to coordinate and stimulate efforts to defend Islamic nations' causes around the world.

## House judiciary panel meets with media officials to review proposed amendment to JPA Law

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament Judiciary Committee Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday called for the amendment of the 1983 Jordan Press Association (JPA) Law to reflect developments in the profession of journalism in the country.

Speaking at a meeting with JPA President Suleiman Qudah, JPA board members, heads of information services and local newspaper chief editors, Mr. Rawabdeh said the proposed amendment should take into consideration the reorganisation of the journalism profession, especially since the country has seen the number of journalists and newspapers grow significantly in recent years.

The aim of the meeting, attended also by the Judiciary Committee members, said Mr. Rawabdeh, was to sound out the views of journalists about the JPA draft amendment which has been referred to the committee for review.

Journalists at the meeting said the amendment should include provisions that would plug any loopholes in the previous law governing the practice of journalism while modernising the law.



Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament Judiciary Committee Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday meets with senior officials of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), official news media institutions and chief editors of the country's newspapers to discuss a proposed amendment to the JPA Law of 1983 (Petra photo)

They demanded that the government provide financial support to the JPA and the journalists' pension fund. The journalists also asked that employees at news departments of the

Jordan Radio and Television Corporation be eligible for membership in the JPA.

They suggested that the JPA serve as the support group for all persons

employed in the field of media, and that the law clearly identify who is a journalist and what is a press institution.

Attendants at the meeting agreed that journalists

should be granted one-week to submit their written remarks to the Judiciary Committee concerning the law and the proposed amendment.

## NHF prepares for '96 Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature

By Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) is organising its 1996 Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature, focusing this year on poetry and scientific fiction.

The aim of the award, according to Director of the Theatre in Education Programme Lina Tal, is to compensate for the lack of appealing science fiction literature, to promote positive national values and contribute to building a child's mental and scientific thinking.

"Most of the scientific material the children are introduced to comes from schoolbooks or foreign literature," she said.

Through this competi-

tion, which is open to any Arab writer, children can enjoy reading creative scientific fiction in their own language, Ms. Tal said.

The winning work, she said, "should also promote a strong sense of pride in Arab culture and heritage," adding that the work would also allow children to build confidence and self-esteem in dealing with other cultures.

Ms. Tal told the Jordan Times that the award, which is granted every two years since it first began in 1989, would go to the most creative and mentally appealing presentation.

"The work would attract children to read the book enthusiastically as well as understand it," she said.

Works will be judged by an anonymous committee.

Ms. Tal said "famous Arab writers" could be among the judges.

The award's preparatory committee is currently informing all Jordanian cultural centres about the competition.

"We want all sectors of the society dealing with children's literature to be involved," said Ms. Tal.

Authors competing for the award should define the age group they are addressing, which according to the award should be between 4-16-years-old, and send three copies of their work to Noor Al Hussein Foundation no later than June 30.

The winning author will receive a cash award of \$3,000.

## Jordan Trade Association team heads for talks in U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) Sunday left Amman for Washington to explore the prospects of exporting Jordanian goods to the United States.

JTA Board Chairman Bassam Saket said the visit, the first by a JTA delegation, aims at opening new markets for Jordanian products in the U.S., the world's largest market. He said the team will also try to find American partners who can help transfer modern technology to Jordan that would benefit the Kingdom at the regional level.

Dr. Saket said the visit is part of Jordan's drive to promote the role of the private sector in implementation of the Amman economic summit resolutions which called not only for contacts to initiate partnerships and cooperation in economic and trade fields, but also to try to attract American investors to Jordanian projects and joint ventures.

During their stay in the United States, the delegation will visit Washington, D.C., and Chicago to hold



Bassam Saket

talks with American businesspersons and government officials. They will also meet with the Jordanian embassy staff in Washington.

The visit has been organised in cooperation with the Arab American Chamber of Commerce which is based in Washington and has branches in Dallas, Chicago, New York and Houston.

The Jordanian delegation, led by JTA Vice Chairman-Fawaz Shalan, includes several directors of various Jordanian industries.

## Autopsy on woman's charred body shows she was pregnant — official

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Sunday arrested a 19-year-old male in connection with the killing of a man in Wadi Rimam, in the Weibdar district of Amman, an official source said.

According to the source, the victim, identified as Shaker A., 24, and the suspect were friends.

The source told the Jordan Times that on the day of the killing, the two men were intoxicated, went to a wooden area in Wadi Rimam, entered a cave and continued drinking.

The official said Shaker demanded that the suspect have sex with him.

"When the suspect refused, Shaker threatened him with a switchblade," the source said.

A fight erupted and the suspect struck Shaker on the head with a stone, killing him instantly, the official said.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times declined comment and said they were investigating the incident.

Police still search for identity of burned woman

Meanwhile, autopsy results on the charred body of a teenage female found dumped in the Sukheh area in Zarqa on Feb. 9 indicated that the young woman was pregnant, an official source said.

Preliminary investigations had said that the woman was probably murdered before she was burnt. But the source would not reveal whether the woman was set aflame before or after she was murdered.

An eyewitness had earlier told the Jordan Times that he saw the woman's body on fire close to the Jineh main road. He claimed that a huge tyre was placed over the body.

Police reports had indicated that the woman was placed over a pile of stones and straw, and her body was ignited using kerosene. Pieces of burnt rope were found near the body, police said.

An official source said that police were still attempting to identify the

woman and had extended their search for missing persons to nearby districts.

Search continues for 2 motorists in shooting incident

In the Mafraq area, police Sunday searched for the drivers of two pick-up trucks who were chasing and shooting at each other on the Jaber Highway. The incident resulted in injury to a 33-year-old bystander who was struck by a stray bullet, Public Security Department (PSD) reports said.

The victim, Mohammad A., told police that he saw two pick-up trucks and their drivers exchanging gunshots, but he was unable to describe the vehicles or the drivers, the report said. He was struck in the thigh and was listed in fair condition, according to the report.

As of Sunday evening police were still searching for the vehicles and drivers.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Abdullah visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein Sunday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) where he met with the PSD Director Maj.-Gen. Nasouh Muhieddin and congratulated him on his new post. Maj.-Gen. Muhieddin said the PSD will translate the King's directives into action, benefiting the higher national interest. He added that the PSD apparatus will live up to the expectations of the King and will do its utmost to safeguard the Kingdom's security and stability.

### Royal Decree appoints Princess Ghida as head of Royal Court press office

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday appointing Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal as head of the Royal Court's International Press office as of Feb. 25.

### IDB offers JD 2.5 million in loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) this month granted five loans worth JD 2.5 million to finance three industrial and two tourist projects in the Kingdom. The industrial projects include a printing press, plastic pipes factory and clothing and underwear factory, while the tourist projects include building a hotel in Amman and a restaurant in Husn near Irbid.

### Smadi leaves for Geneva

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi Sunday left for Geneva to take part in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meetings which will start in Geneva today. Dr Smadi will deliver Jordan's address to the conference, in his capacity as head of the Asian Group. In a departure statement, Dr Smadi said he will deal with the success of the UNCTAD's Asian group ministerial meeting which was held here in January, and will stress the need to maintain transparency in all UN specialised conferences.

### Reductions offered to early tax-payers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department Sunday called on tax-payers wishing to benefit from a four per cent reduction in their taxable income to present their self-estimation income sheets prior to the end of February. The reduction is granted as an incentive to tax payers to present their sheets early. The Department called on tax-payers who wish to benefit from this reduction, which is provided for in the Income Tax Law, but who cannot pay their full dues, to pay a downpayment before the end of February, provided that the sheet will not be presented any later than April 30.

## Hourani laid to rest

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Awakening) newspaper, and later the Ishraqia (Socialism) newspaper.

He supported the military coup of Husni Al Zaim in 1949 and other coups which Syria had witnessed in the 1950s and 1960s.

He founded the Arab Socialist party, which later merged with the Baath Party, led by Michael Aflaq, to form the Arab Socialist Baath Party.

He resigned from the party in 1961 following differences with President Abdul Nasser.

That year he left Syria never to return because of differences with the subsequent Syrian regimes. He spent the last three decades in Beirut, Baghdad, Paris and Amman.

On Sunday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delegated his advisor Mohammad Al Saqqaf to offer his condolences to the Hourani family.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILMS

\* Chilean film entitled "Los Naufragos," in Spanish at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, at 7:00 p.m.

\* "Viva Maria," at the French Cultural Centre, at 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

\* "Restoration and Conservation of the Ancient Mosaics," by Claudio Cimino of the Madaba Mosaic School, at the Friends of Archaeology Centre, at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Abstract (plastic) art by Syrian artist Nazem Hamdan at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 5).

\* Abstract (plastic) art by Mirvat Emile Wahhab at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery (until March 5).

\* Paintings by Jordanian and other Arab artists at Alia Art Gallery (until March 5).

\* Engravings by French artists at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 29).



## Cuban MiG shoots down 2 small U.S. planes Havana breaks silence, calls exile planes 'pirates'

MIAMI (R) — As a U.S. Coast Guard ship, searched the dark waters of the Atlantic early Sunday for four Cuban exiles in two small airplanes, the Cuban government issued a statement saying the planes were shot down and calling them "pirates."

In Havana, the government of Fidel Castro broke a silence of about 15 hours, saying it had shot down two "pirate" aircraft that violated its airspace and said their downing should serve as a lesson to those who encouraged or carried out such actions.

A Foreign Ministry statement, quoted by the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina, said the two planes were shot down inside Cuban airspace between five and eight miles (8 and 13 kilometres) north of Playa Baracoa, west of Havana.

The disappearance of the two Cessna airplanes Saturday afternoon brought a stern demand by President Bill Clinton for an explanation from the Cuban government.

"I condemn this action in the strongest possible terms," Mr. Clinton said during a campaign stop in Seattle.

Press Secretary Mike McCurry said early Sunday that President Clinton's national security advisers will meet at 9 a.m. est (1400 GMT) in Washington to review the Cuban situation.

Mr. Clinton was expected to be briefed on their conclusions later in the day.

Mr. McCurry also quoted the State Department as saying contact with the Cuban government has allowed the United States to have freedom of movement in Cuban territorial waters for the search and rescue mission.

The shooting also marked the latest in a series of sometimes violent confrontations during the past three decades between Miami's large and vocal Cuban exile community, and the government of Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Hundreds of angry Cuban exiles vowed to meet Sunday morning to organise protests and demonstrations. Last spring, a series of demonstrations paralysed Miami for several days when exiles took to the streets to protest the Clinton administration's decision to reverse three decades of U.S. policy and repatriate Cuban rafters.

The four missing pilots were identified as Pablo Morales, Carlos Costa, Mario De La Pena and Armando Alejandro. All were members of Brothers to the Rescue, a popular Miami group of volunteer pilots who fly across the Florida Straits three times a week to search for rafters fleeing the island.



Jose Basulto, founder of Brothers to the Rescue, describes seeing a Cuban MiG dive from the sky while piloting his Cessna 337 Skymaster with two other planes near Cuban territorial waters Saturday. Mr. Basulto believes the other planes were shot down by the Cuban fighter. At right is Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Reuters photo)

Mr. Morales was a former rafter who was rescued by the group two years ago.

The men were aboard the planes Saturday afternoon flying what was described as a "routine" mission over international waters. A third plane, piloted by the group's founder, Jose Basulto, made it back to Florida safely.

Last year, the group flew directly over Havana to drop anti-Castro leaflets on at least two occasions the Cuban government declared it would not tolerate any more incursions into its airspace.

Mr. Basulto, fighting to hold back tears, told reporters late Saturday night that he saw the other planes disappear in smoke soon after a Cuban MiG abruptly appeared on the scene.

The two small planes were equipped with yellow life vests, life rafts, food, water and emergency flares.

"If the pilot and crew were able to get these survival items before the plane went down, it would help their chances considerably," said Coast Guard Petty Officer Scott Carr. The Coast Guard vessel Nantuxet patrolled about 20 miles (32 kilometres) off Havana and used spotlights and night vision goggles to search for the missing men throughout the night.

Additional vessels and helicopters were to join the search at dawn Sunday, criss-crossing a 330-square mile (854 kilometre) area.

"The downing of these two pirate planes should serve as a lesson to those who promote or carry out such actions," Prensa Latina cited the Cuban government statement as saying.

Breaking its silence on the incident, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said three planes from Florida had penetrated Cuban air space earlier Saturday but were headed off by a Cuban Air Force fighter.

When they approached again, several hours later, one of them was warned by Havana Air Traffic Control of the risks they were facing but the pilot chose to ignore the warning, the ministry statement said.

While the two planes which were eventually downed entered Cuban air space, a third plane, the leader of the group, remained outside the 12-mile (20 kilometre) limit, the statement added.

"The Cuban Revolution will invariably continue to take all measures to defend its sovereignty and preserve the security of its people," the Foreign Ministry statement said, quoted by Prensa Latina.

## Pakistan blames India for Kashmir border clash

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Pakistani Defence Ministry Sunday accused Indian paramilitary troops of resorting to "unprovoked" firing from across the border in the disputed Kashmir state.

The gun battles overnight resulted in no casualties, a Defence Ministry official said.

He said the exchange of gunfire took place when the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) soldiers "tried to violate the status of the working boundary" in Kashmir.

Commenting on a report from the Indian held Kashmir's summer capital Jammu, he said regular troops did not figure in the clash.

The exchange of "small arms fire" was between soldiers of the paramilitary Pakistani Rangers and their Indian counterpart BSF, he added.

Indian Defence Ministry officials earlier said Pakistani soldiers opened fire at two Indian posts in the R.S. Pura sector, 25 kilometres from Jammu.

"The Pakistanis used medium and light machine guns," an Indian official said. "They fired more than 3,000 rounds. We retaliated with equal force."

They said the Pakistani troops began shooting on suspicion that Indian authorities

were laying a fence along the winding frontier of Kashmir.

The two countries have twice gone to war over the divided state since their independence in 1947.

Skirmishes between Indian and Pakistani troops on the Kashmir frontier are common. Pakistan blamed Indian troops for the last clash in Samba sector 45 kilometres from Jammu.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming and training Muslim militants fighting to end Indian rule over Kashmir, where a bloody separatist drive has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Pakistan denies the charge but provides moral and diplomatic support to what it calls a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Meanwhile the Indian government has asked political parties in Kashmir to provide details of all overseas contributions in the aftermath of the country's worst corruption scandal.

Leaders across the political spectrum said the Home Ministry had sent notices to them terming such contributions as being "prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India."

They said parties had been asked to furnish accounts from 1990, a year after a bloody Muslim separatist drive broke out in the troubled

state. The insurgency has claimed more than 12,000 lives to date.

The notice follows a sweeping bribery scandal when a raid on New Delhi-based businessman Surinder Jain revealed coded payments worth at least \$21 million made to 115 top politicians and bureaucrats in return for favours.

Seven federal ministers have resigned since, along with the main opposition leader and others. The opposition accuses Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao of accepting bribes, a charge denied by the ruling party.

Mr. Jain's plush New Delhi country retreat was raided by federal detectives after a surprise interrogation of a suspected Kashmiri militant in New Delhi.

Indian authorities believe the rebel drive is funded largely by overseas Kashmiris and Pakistan and other countries.

The scandal led to a Supreme Court notice ordering political parties to file income tax returns ahead of parliamentary polls, widely expected in April.

Many Kashmiri leaders slammed the notice saying it was a bid by New Delhi to implicate them in the scandal and arrest them ahead of the elections.

Muslim leader Syed Shah Geelani said: "We have not received any foreign contributions as New Delhi has banned our organisation."

## Thais cast security net ahead of Asia-EU summit

BANGKOK (R) — A Japanese cult and a group of North Koreans who entered Thailand under false pretences are worrying security officials as they prepare for next week's Asia-Europe summit in Bangkok.

Nevertheless, Thailand is confident the meeting of more than a score of Asian and European heads of government will be enveloped in watertight security, senior Thai government officials told Reuters.

Thai police arrested two Japanese men last week who they said were wanted members of the doomsday cult Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth sect) and said they were suspected of planning an attack during the 25-nation summit on March 1-2.

Police said they were still looking for two other members of the sect who were believed to be in Thailand.

Immigration Police Commander Lieutenant Kiatrak Prapawatt said his men were also keeping a watch out for a group of eight or nine North Koreans who entered the country recently posing as South Koreans.

"It's normal for North Koreans to come here but the strange thing is when we double-checked we found that those people who declared they were South Koreans turned out to be North Koreans," Lt. Kiatrak told Reuters.



Bangladeshi police arrest boys on the streets as they crack down on all protestors leading a nation-wide stoppage, in Dhaka Sunday, the second day of an opposition-led "non-cooperation" campaign. The campaign is intended to drive Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia from office (Reuters photo)

## Bangladesh stoppage brings more violence and arrests

DHAKA (R) — Opposition militants clashed with police and fought gunbattles with government supporters Sunday in a campaign to force Bangladesh's newly re-elected prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, from power.

At least 60 people were injured, several by gunshots, in Dhaka and Chittagong. The toll since Saturday, when the opposition's "non-cooperation campaign" began, stands at two dead and more than 130 injured.

With business and transport at a standstill, police took the side of pro-government militants in some street battles, witnesses said.

Mrs. Khaleda and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party were easy winners this month in a general election boycotted by the main opposition parties, which had demanded that a neutral government step in to run the poll.

At Chittagong Port, shut since Saturday, battles erupted Sunday when Shipping Minister Shahjahan Siraj failed to persuade workers to return to the docks.

"Heavily armed pro-government militants, backed by security forces, turned on the workers and opposition activists supporting them," a Chittagong journalist told Reuters.

"An exchange of fire ensued as the fighting spread. About 40 activists on the two sides were injured," he said.

Ten more people were hurt in clashes elsewhere in the city, witnesses said. Saturday and Sunday are working days in Bangladesh.

In the capital Dhaka, opposition activists hurled bombs at vehicles moving under heavy police escort and threw bricks at police, who responded with batons and tear gas. About 10 people received minor injuries, witnesses said.

At Tongi, a rail junction in the suburbs of Dhaka, protesters barricaded track, set off bombs and opened fired on security men. A protester and two policemen were wounded, press photographers on the scene said.

Four key opposition leaders have been arrested and several others are at large only because police did not find them.

Those held include Mohammad Nasim of the Awami League, the main opposition party, and Anwar Hossain Manju and Moudud Ahmad of the Jatiya Party. They can be kept 30 days without trial.

Mr. Nasim and Mr. Ahmad were both arrested at their homes after midnight Saturday, relatives told Reuters.

Mr. Manju, editor of Ittefaq, Bangladesh's best selling newspaper, was arrested Saturday evening while returning home from the Jatiya Party office.

Awami leader Begum Matia Chowdhury was arrested Saturday as she urged bureaucrats to join the campaign.

Police also raided the homes of Awami leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofayel Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Suranjit Sengupta Saturday night but could not find them, opposition sources said.

Witnesses said only rickshaws and a few state corporation buses moved in Dhaka. Trains, ferries and inter-city buses were not running.

Only senior employees turned up in government offices. Private offices were closed. Most banks kept their doors shut.

Top officials and senior bureaucrats slept in their offices Saturday night to avoid street protests.

Two people died and nearly 70, including several policemen, were injured in clashes in Dhaka and elsewhere Saturday.

## Burma sanctions campaign gains momentum in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Burma's critics in the United States are claiming modest success in pressing for sanctions against the military government, accused of widespread human rights abuses.

Tough sanctions legislation is again pending in Congress, and the New York City Council held hearings Friday on similar legislation that supporters say stands a good chance of becoming law.

A dozen other state and local governments across the country have already approved or are considering bills banning contracts with firms operating in Burma — such as Texaco, Unocal, and PepsiCo — while several other large companies have suspended operations in the country.

New York's unique status as "an international financial centre and home to the United Nations" would lend special significance to anti-Burma sanctions there, said Thawng Hun, who represents the Burmese government-in-exile in its dealings with the United Nations.

"It would also support sanctions at the federal level," he said in a telephone interview from New York.

Aided by Internet and Electronic Mail links with Burmese dissidents and their supporters in North America, Asia, and Europe, U.S. activists say their campaign has gained substantial momentum in the last six months.

They have galvanised notably since the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council

(SLORC) released opposition leader and 1991 Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in July, after keeping her under house arrest for six years.

"Hopes were high after Mrs. Suu Kyi's release," said Zarni, leader of an umbrella group called the Free Burma Coalition. "Everyone thought it marked a significant step toward democracy."

"But now it's more than clear that they have no intention of changing," he said by phone from Madison, Wisconsin, whose state university campus has played a central role in the campaign for sanctions against Burma.

Washington-based opposition leader Bo Hla-Tint agreed: "Slave labour and child labour continue, and the military ignore calls for political dialogue."

Human Rights Watch recently catalogued a litany of abuses in Burma, describing its military leaders as increasingly resistant to political compromise despite the release of their most compelling critic.

Republican Senator Mitch McConnell calls Mrs. Suu Kyi's release "a sadistic charade" aimed at diverting attention from the junta's stranglehold on power.

Sen. McConnell, chairman of a key foreign appropriations committee, has reintroduced a bill that would ban all U.S. aid to and investment in Burma and authorise the president to bar Burmese imports at his discretion.

It would also require the United States to oppose multilateral assistance to

Burma from agencies such as the Asian Development Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Although a similar measure won approval in the full Senate in September, Sen. McConnell withdrew it under pressure after colleagues accused him of surreptitiously tacking in onto broader legislation without debate.

A modified bill — minus sweeping provisions that would have revoked Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trade status for any country that failed to support sanctions against Burma, such as Japan and China — is under review in both houses of Congress.

The legislation has won endorsements from several influential senators of both parties, although supporters concede that turning the legislation into federal law will be a difficult fight.

One hurdle they will have to overcome through persuasion or massive congressional support is opposition from the White House, which views unilateral sanctions in general as futile.

International support in this case would go far. One Burmese minister last year estimated total foreign investment committed since the SLORC came to power in 1988 at nearly \$2.6 billion, much of it from Asia and Europe.

"The current climate in policy-making circles is against linking human rights and trade," Mr. Zarni said. "But I look at this as an ongoing battle. These practices have got to stop."

## Liver growing back after California poisoning

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Doctors in San Francisco said Saturday they successfully removed the donor liver from a young girl who underwent a partial liver transplant after eating poisonous mushrooms, adding that the girl is recovering.

In a rare procedure, doctors last week removed the transplanted liver after finding that 13-year-old Jennifer Chang's injured liver was quickly regenerating itself. Chang left the hospital Thursday following the procedure and is recovering at home.

Her doctors said she was in good condition Saturday and was no longer taking anti-rejection drugs, which could have increased her susceptibility to infection and other problems. "She probably will have perfect health from this," said Jean Emond, director of pediatric liver transplantation at the University of California at San Francisco Medical Centre. "This operation succeeded beyond our wildest expectations."

Chang returned to her home to recover with about 70 per cent of her own liver intact. Doctors said a healthy patient can live with as little as 30 per cent of her own liver. "She proved to us that she had sufficient liver function," said Dr. Emond, adding that Chang's liver would quickly add cells and would be functioning normally within three to 10 weeks. Wild mushrooms grew around the San Francisco Bay area after recent heavy rains.

The 13-year-old girl, two brothers and her mother fell seriously ill earlier this month after mistakenly picking and eating the highly toxic "death cap" variety, which can cause liver damage and sometimes death.

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## Taiwanese president wants peace talks with China

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui Sunday invited China to hold peace talks with the Nationalist island, saying nations in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world are concerned about precarious relations across the Taiwan Strait.

"After the end of the cold war, it is a world trend to replace confrontation with negotiation," Mr. Lee said in a television campaign forum here. "In the past six years, we have followed this trend by devoting ourselves to maintaining stability in the Taiwan Strait and promoting peaceful exchanges with the mainland."

"Peace in the Taiwan Strait deeply affects the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region as well as international political and economic development in the 21st century," he added.

Mr. Lee said that the world expects Taiwan and China to end their hostilities, create a peaceful environment and develop mutually beneficial and prosperous relations.

"I have the confidence — and the wisdom and courage — to end the cross-strait hostility ... and to make historic contributions for the peaceful development of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait," Mr. Lee said.

Mr. Lee's comments, made in the first presidential television campaign forum involving other candidates, came after a press conference Friday during which he said signing a peace treaty with China was the top priority among cross-strait issues.

Mr. Lee is running for a second term against three other candidates in the March 23 elections, the first direct presidential elections in the island's history.

The candidates — former dissident Peng Ming-min, Chen Li-an, former head of the government watchdog Control Yuan, and former vice chairman of the ruling Kuomintang, Lin Yang-Kang — all appeared in the historic forum to speak on their policies and their views.

No debate or cross-questioning was allowed.

Mr. Lee, who did not refer to his unofficial visit to the United States in June which enraged China and triggered mounting tensions across the Taiwan Strait, focused on his past achievements, including removing the state of emergency to ease hostility toward China in 1991 and increased non-political exchanges with China.

He emphasised that it is necessary for Taiwan to continue to increase ties with other countries that do not maintain official ties with the island.

He said Taiwan must increase its international profile and influence within the region and the world.

Mr. Lee's controversial U.S. visit, which Beijing deemed an attempt to promote Taiwan's independence, has further worsened already strained cross-strait relations.

After the visit, China conducted three rounds of drills near Taiwan, including two missile tests between July and November. It is planning an even larger exercise in Fujian on the doorstep of Taiwan ahead of the presidential polls.

Mr. Lee's campaign opponents Sunday said Mr. Lee's rash policy of expanding Taiwan's international status without a careful plan has escalated cross-strait tensions.

Taiwan and China separated after a civil war in 1949. Beijing has warned that if Taipei officially breaks from the mainland, it will attack the island.



Philippine President Fidel Ramos (right) looks up at the Philippine flag together with former President Corazon Aquino (left) and Ramos' wife Ming Sunday in Manila as they lead a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolt which ousted strongman Ferdinand Marcos (Reuters photo)

## Philippines celebrates People Power

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos Sunday called for an end to political bickering as a nation that a decade ago united to overthrow a dictator marked the 10th anniversary of the People Power revolt.

Thousands flocked to the site of the uprising on Manila's Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue (EDSA) to hear Mr. Ramos plead for unity. But a major player in the 1986 revolt stayed away, dramatising the disunity that has plagued the country since the late Ferdinand Marcos was ousted.

Mr. Ramos said there was enough glory in the EDSA uprising for everyone without having to quarrel over its spoils.

"Tyrannies we will always suffer if we do not set aside our petty quarrels," Mr. Ramos told the crowd. "On this solemn moment let me remind you all there is enough honour, enough glory in the EDSA revolt for all of us to share."

"But let me also say that if we reduce the meaning of EDSA to petty partisan politics, to factionalism... then there will also be shame and hardship enough to cover all of us for generations."

Earlier in the day, former first lady Imelda Marcos, now a congresswoman despite a criminal conviction for corruption offences linked to her husband's 20-year rule, held her own bizarre ceremony to mark the event.

The event, which began before dawn, featured Mrs. Marcos leading a sung version of the lord's prayer and asking God to bless the people who "betrayed" her husband.

She also asked for the almighty to enlighten the Swiss bankers holding some of the estimated \$5 billion the Marcoses and their associates are accused of looting from the national treasury.

Mr. Ramos was joined in the official celebration by former President Corazon Aquino and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, the most influential churchman in this largely Roman Catholic country.

The three of them, along with Marcos defence chief Juan Ponce Enrile, led the uprising that ended Marcos' rule and catapulted Mrs. Aquino to the presidency.

Mr. Enrile, now a senator, stayed away from the event despite invitations sent to him by organisers.

Mrs. Aquino and Sen. Enrile, united against Marcos but traditionally mistrustful of each other, have renewed their public squabbles after Sen. Enrile accused a relative of Mrs. Aquino of grabbing some Marcos-linked companies for himself while Mrs. Aquino was in power.

Mrs. Aquino challenged Sen. Enrile to prove his claim.

Bickering has also marred relations between church and government, especially over official corruption and state family planning policies.

Mr. Ramos also warned that despite economic progress the country faced a new revolution if growth did not ease widespread poverty.

"We may undergo revolution again and again if we do not strengthen our country economically... (and) if we do not manage growth so that it will bring social justice and better lives to the poor," he said.

Leftists also marked the day with a march in central Manila to protest against a new value-added tax, oil price increases and a proposed security law the government says it needs to fight Islamic extremism.

## I am human and fallible — Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela Sunday denied rumours of ill health but cautioned the media against portraying him as a "superhero" solely responsible for South Africa's smooth transition to democracy.

"I am human and as fallible as anyone else," Mr. Mandela wrote in an article published in the Johannesburg Sunday Times.

Rumours on Feb. 15 that Mr. Mandela had suffered a heart attack sent the rand into a free fall and foreign investors scuttling for cover, raising questions about confidence in the country after Mr. Mandela steps down in 1999.

"Let me assure the nation that, health-wise, I am on top of the world," Mr. Mandela wrote.

He said "serious investors" had accepted his often-stated intention of retiring in 1999.

"The confidence in South Africa's future is reflected in the expansion of long-term fixed investment, the unfolding growth and development strategy and constitutional negotiations — all of which are laying the foundation for our progress well beyond the beginning of the new millennium," he said.

"A ridiculous notion is sometimes advanced that Mandela has been exclusively responsible for these real achievements of the South African people, particularly our smooth transition."

He warned against presenting the president "as a 'superhuman' and (creating) the impression that the ruling African National Congress — ANC is a mere rubber stamp of my ideas; and that the ministers, experts and others are all insignificant, under the magic spell of a single individual."

Mr. Mandela cited three examples of

ANC policy which he had opposed but on which he had been overruled by the party's national executive committee:

— The decision to suspend armed actions in 1990 against the then-apartheid government;

— the decision to remain in constitutional negotiations from 1990 to 1994 despite repeated evidence that the apartheid authorities were involved in violence in black townships; and

— the decision to agree to a government of national unity rather than a winner-takes-all approach to democracy.

He emphasised that the policy of reconciliation and nation-building he has become famous for is the ANC's and not his own.

The majority of South Africans, black and white, were also involved in "making our miracle happen" and were not simply sitting back "believing that an individual, to whom superhuman qualities are conveniently ascribed, will make our nation succeed."

Mr. Mandela said it was "unacceptable" that the media was busy praising him while denigrating other ANC politicians, particularly Deputy President Thabo Mbeki whose lower profile was blamed for the rand's collapse.

"The exaltation of the president and the denigration of other ANC leaders constitutes praise which I do not accept," Mr. Mandela said.

As for the rumours of his ill health, he added, they were not as bad as some that circulated while he was in prison on Robben Island during apartheid; one claimed he was dying, another that he was dead.

## 44 people arrested for arson in Nepal

KATHMANDU (AFP) — A hotel was torched in western Nepal Sunday and 44 people have been arrested in several arson cases apparently stemming from disruptions blamed on a Communist Party, a newspaper and officials said.

The destroyed hotel was in rural Salyan district, about 325 kilometres (200 miles) west of the capital Kathmandu, where arson and clashes between the Communists and their opponents have been occurring. Said chief district officer Harihar Sharma, quoted in the Mahanagar Metropolitan newspaper.

Police have arrested 44 people in the incidents, the newspaper said.

The incidents follow a call earlier this month from the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist for a so-called "people's war."

"There was no other way to resolve the present crisis in the country," said Pushpa

Kamal Dahal, the general secretary of the party.

The party last week claimed responsibility for several disturbances in several western and far western districts. No serious injuries have been reported.

Nepal's main communist party, the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) party, said it opposed the disturbances by the Maoists.

Meanwhile, the English-language Kathmandu Post expressed concern about the upheaval.

"The neglect shown by the central government to the aspirations of the rural population, and increasing numbers of the educated unemployed have made Nepal's rural areas ripe for Maoist-inspired insurgency along the lines of Peru's Shining Path guerrilla movement," it said.

## Four die as Chechenya war spills over Ingushetia border

MOSCOW (AFP) — At least four people died as the war in Chechenya spilt over into the tiny neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia, Ingush officials said Sunday.

Two Ingush mountain villages were being pounded by Russian forces seeking to flush out Chechen separatists.

The outskirts of the villages of Arshy and Galashky, which lie on the border with Chechenya of this north Caucasus republic, Sunday were subjected to heavy artillery bombardment for the fourth consecutive day.

A communique received here quoted the mayor of Arshy, Mukharbek Khatsiyev, who managed to break through Russian lines, as saying shelling had "caused another four civilian deaths on Saturday evening, including two women."

"There is not a window left intact in the village, and the villagers have taken shelter in basements," he said.

Previous reports had spoken of three dead and 11 wounded in Arshy.

Meanwhile the ITAR-TASS news agency reported that the Ingush Security Council had met late Saturday and declared Russian troop deployment in Ingushetia and shelling of villages "illegal."

It has called on the Ingush government to demand the "immediate" withdrawal of Russian forces from its territory, saying that their behaviour violates the constitution of the Russian Federation, of which Ingushetia is a member.

ITAR-TASS quoted Ingush President Ruslan Ayushev, who chaired the meeting, urging people to show "calm, restraint and responsibility over the present and future of Ingushetia."

"The leaders of Ingushetia will do all in their power to safeguard peace," he added.

Ingush authorities have also been asked to claim compensation for the damage caused by the shelling and to appeal to Russia's Constitutional Court.

Russian forces said Saturday the bombardment was

aimed at groups of Chechen separatist fighters in reprisal for an attack Thursday on Russian troops.

A police officer in Arshy told Ingush officials by telephone that heavy artillery fire was coming from Bamut in Chechenya.

"Despite assurances by the military command that artillery and aircraft have not been used in Ingushetia, artillery fire was heard all yesterday (Saturday) and all night" near Arshy and Galashky, the official communique added.

Valery Kuks, the Ingush minister responsible for emergency situations, said an aid convoy sent to the villages had been refused access by Russian troops.

The bombardment began Thursday and Russian forces were shooting "at random," said Ali Daaurov, secretary of the Ingush Security Council, Saturday.

The villagers of Arshy, where Chechen rebels fleeing Russian attacks have taken refuge previously, hardly bother to disguise their sympathy with their Chechen "cousins". The village was bombed by Russian aircraft at least twice last year.

The border where the villages lie was not clearly defined after Chechenya's declaration of independence in late 1991. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union the two ethnically-similar republics were known as Checheno-Ingushetia.

Since launching their massive intervention in Chechenya in December 1994 the Russian forces have repeatedly said they regard several villages in the border region as part of Chechenya.

An estimated 30,000 civilians have died in the 14-month war between Russian forces and Chechen separatists loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The latest attack has renewed criticism in Moscow of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has said he intends to end the Chechenya conflict before June's presidential election.

## Keating revives election hopes

SYDNEY (R) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating gained a triple boost to his re-election bid Sunday as he rose in opinion polls, saw his labour party surge in a state election and defeated his opponent in a television debate.

As counting continued after Saturday's Tasmanian election, labour achieved a 12 per cent swing against the conservative state government, bolstering morale in Mr. Keating's Labour Party in its uphill battle for re-election Saturday.

One of two polls published in newspapers Sunday show Labour now level with the opposition coalition of Liberal and National parties, each with 50 per cent of the vote.

"The federal election is shaping as a cliffhanger with support for Labour surging to make the contest too close to call," the Sunday Telegraph said of its poll, conducted by an independent research firm over Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The second of two scheduled television debates dominated by economic argument led a studio audience to vote 56 per cent to 44 per cent that Mr. Keating had beaten Liberal-National opposition leader John Howard.

Mr. Keating said Mr. Howard's plan to expose wages to more free market competition would send inflation out of control while leaving unskilled workers with less buying power.

"If you're elected to office, John, there'll be a wage breakout," he told Mr. Howard on national television. "The strong people will breakout and the weaker will get nothing."

Labour has won at least three extra seats in Tasmania's legislature, robbing the state government of its majority. But the result was not enough to claim outright victory and left the state with a hung parliament.

"I think the main impact this will have is to build morale within the labour movement," said Justice Minister Duncan Kerr, who will contest the general election Saturday in his Labour-held electoral district in Tasmania's south.

"Enormous swings to Labour in Tasmania will lift the confidence of candidates going into the federal election," Mr. Kerr said in a radio interview Sunday.



Republican presidential candidate Pat Buchanan talks to reporters Saturday outside his Phoenix hotel (Reuters photo)

## Forbes wins Delaware primary

WILMINGTON, Delaware (R) — Millionaire publisher Steve Forbes won the Republican presidential primary in Delaware Saturday, delivering another body blow to the White House hopes of Senate majority leader Bob Dole.

Mr. Forbes was the only candidate to campaign in person in Delaware. The others ignored the state in deference to New Hampshire, which demanded a full week before last Tuesday's primary and the next test of the presidential campaign.

Still, the win kept Mr. Forbes in the race and put even more pressure on Sen. Dole after his stunning defeat in New Hampshire at the hands of conservative columnist Pat Buchanan.

The win gave Mr. Forbes his first 12 delegates to the Republican National Convention that will anoint the Republican choice to face President Bill Clinton in the Nov. 5 election, with 996 delegates needed for nomination.

Mr. Forbes took the primary with just under a third of the vote. Sen. Dole was second with around 25 per cent. Mr. Buchanan came in third with 18 per cent. Former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander was a distant fourth.

For Sen. Dole, the 12 delegates came at the beginning of what is shaping up to be another awful week. The 72-year-old lawmaker, on his third presidential bid, was an overwhelming frontrunner only two weeks ago. Now, he is expected to lose to Mr. Buchanan again in the next big primary in Arizona Tuesday.

Mr. Forbes has spent millions of dollars in television advertising in Arizona. If the Delaware win boosts his support here, he could push Sen. Dole into third place.

Sen. Dole angered many in the southwestern border state by skipping a candi-

dates' debate Thursday. He finally showed up on the campaign trail Saturday in an attempt to shore up his position, but many commentators said his appearance might have come too late.

Wearing a cowboy hat, Mr. Buchanan came up with a new sneer for Sen. Dole. He called him "Belway Bob" after the ring road that runs around Washington D.C., and offered to send him a map of Arizona.

Joel Nilsson, an editorial writer for the Arizona Republic newspaper, said Sen. Dole had run an inept campaign in the state. "Dole is falling like a rock. He'll be lucky to take second place and third isn't outside the realm of possibility," he wrote.

Discussing Sen. Dole's decision not to take part in the debate, Mr. Nilsson asked: "What's he afraid of? Can't he think on his feet? ... Or was the debate past his bedtime?"

Arriving in Arizona, Sen. Dole dismissed criticism of his non-appearance in the debate.

"I was in Arizona before some of these people had ever heard of it. I went to school here. We had a lot of debates in school and I did all right," he said.

Mr. Buchanan has been drawing huge crowds to hear his anti-free trade, anti-big business message in small towns and communities rarely if ever visited by a presidential candidate. He held five rallies Saturday while Sen. Dole had scheduled just two.

Mr. Buchanan started in Tempe, Arizona, where he told supporters one or two more big victories could make him unstoppable.

"We're on the verge of breaking out and breaking through. If you elect me president, there will be covered wagons of bureaucrats heading into the hills."

## Major woos waverers before key debate

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major sought to placate members of his party threatening to vote against him in a critical debate Monday on a damaging report into sales of arms-making equipment to Iraq.

The Scott report published last week severely criticised two ministers, prompting one conservative member of parliament to quit the ruling party and another to say that he would not support the government.

Mr. Major, writing in Sunday's tabloid News Of The World, softened the

government's earlier stance on the report, saying he accepted there were serious lessons to be learned.

"There are issues about the way government works, which we need to discuss... I'm sure there are things we can do — and we will do — to make sure that government works better," he said. "On Monday, we will set out more details of what we plan to do."

The government had previously insisted that it was vindicated by Judge Sir Richard Scott's report, a line which was undermined when Judge Scott himself

complained of having been quoted out of context. Mr. Major, whose parliamentary majority was sliced to just two when MP Peter Thurnham left the Conservative Party last week, has rejected calls to sack the two ministers criticised by Judge Scott.

The report said William Waldegrave, now number two at the treasury, repeatedly misled parliament when he said guidelines on exporting arms-making equipment to Iraq had not changed in the late 1980s.



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## Futility of serial killings

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to think of a more self-defeating act for the Palestinian cause than for Hamas or Islamic Jihad or any other group to start a new campaign of violence with the Israelis, for whatever reason. It is bad and damaging enough to commit terrorism at any time but it is doubly harmful when it occurs just a few months prior to the beginning of final status talks and a mere three months before the Israeli Knesset elections.

It is conceivable that the extremist elements who organised yesterday's suicide attacks could not see what their acts would do to the forces of peace on the Israeli side? Could it be that Hamas is "lobbying" or "campaigning" in favour of the Likud Party who stands to benefit the most from Palestinian extremism at this stage? The Israeli ultra-nationalists and right-wingers must have been hoping all along that such attacks would actually materialise in order to narrow the popularity gap between them and the Labour Party before the Israelis go to the polls in late May. How short-sighted can some Palestinians be to play into the hands of Israeli extremists and pull the rug from under the feet of moderates in Israel by showing that their investment in peace with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is defunct? Surely the people who have led the suicide bombers to their deaths were also targeting the peace accords between the PNA and Israel. Their quarrel with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has taken a heavy toll not only on human life but also on the chances of making real and lasting peace. We are certainly beyond the stage of mere condemnation of these acts and must look for more effective ways to end them.

Meanwhile, there is a lesson or two for the Israeli government to learn from all this pain and tragedy. The first, and probably the more evident, is that the political atmosphere in which the bombs exploded was very tense, basically due to the fact that the Israelis had continued to put pressure on the Palestinians whether by decisions to confiscate more Arab land or building more Jewish housing in the West Bank and not releasing Palestinian prisoners in accordance with mutual agreements. The second is that Israel has to stop somewhere in its armed pursuit of the so-called "wanted" Palestinians. Either there is a truce between the two sides, in which Arafat is given a full chance to contain those among his people who are opposed to the peace process, or there is not, in which case Israel can only expect the cycle of violence to continue through such acts as assassinations and revenge killings.

In the end, peace will be lasting and comprehensive only if the will exists on both sides to bring all the people around it, not just doves and moderates. The Palestinians and the Israelis have to work together, hand in hand, to contain extremists on either side but not unilaterally or selectively.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SULTAN AL Hattab, a writer for Al Ra'i, described the killing of two Iraqi defectors to Jordan who returned to Baghdad recently as criminal as the occupation of Kuwait in 1990. The world, which was shocked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which led to the subsequent war on Iraq, is now again appalled at the killing of Hussein Kamel and other members of his family, said the writer. As to the embargo on Iraq, which has been in place since 1990, one can only sympathise with the Iraqi people who are the real victims and can only hope that the sanctions will be lifted, said the writer. He added that it is unreasonable and unacceptable to see the Iraqi authorities hold on to their horrible and abhorrent policies which give justifications for the perpetuation of the sanctions on the Iraqi people. The writer said that the sanctions should be lifted but at the same time the horror and the executions in Iraq must end. He said that one can only hold the Iraqi regime responsible for the killing of the defectors and their relatives and also for the continued misery of the Iraqi people.

Fakhri Kaware, a writer for Al Dostour, said that the government will soon submit to Parliament a new elections law for debate and approval and could consult with Parliament's different blocs before taking this step, but the deputies should not be the only people to examine the advantages and disadvantages of the new law because it is a very sensitive matter, of concern to the nation at large. He said that the government should open the way for open public discussion of the various articles of the draft law through the media and on television. The writer also called for involving academics, universities, public and private organisations as well as tribes and professional associations in preliminary discussions of the new law. Their views should be taken into consideration and the draft law amended accordingly, said the writer. What is not acceptable to most Jordanians, said the writer, is the one-person one-vote voting system which has caused a heated controversy before the last general elections.

## Human Rights File

# Why we need a white revolution

By Dr. Waleed M. Sa'di

IN THE wake of His Majesty King Hussein's call on the new government to usher in a white revolution, I, like probably many others, found myself asking the question: Why does His Majesty need a white revolution to correct omissions and/or commissions of previous government officials when he had personally appointed or approved of them and what they stand for? In retrospect, though, this question is neither pertinent nor legitimate against the backdrop of the Jordanian reality.

As far as I can see, the essence of the confusion stems from the prevailing myth that His Majesty King Hussein controls all and everything in the country and is therefore responsible for everything that may happen in it, be it good or bad, simply because he appoints prime ministers, approves cabinet ministers and selects high-ranking officials, especially when it comes to the military, security and intelligence apparatus.

If the King calls all the shots, the argument goes, why does he need a white revolution to correct policies of people he personally endorsed in the first place?

The best answer may lie in the proposition that the Monarch does not in fact control everything that occurs in the country notwithstanding the widespread assumption that he does. True, the King appoints practically all the high officials of the country, especially in sensitive areas of government, but he does so on the basis of recommendations and all available information about their policies, character and other personal profile data.

It is obviously more than possible that the King's assessments of people's overall profile could be based on insufficient information or on information that was once true but does not remain valid for all times and circumstances.

People change just as circumstances change, and keeping abreast of all these natural personal and circumstantial transformations is not exactly a science that even King Hussein with all his wide and long experiences can master with full-proof results.

Accordingly, it is at least theoretically possible that the Monarch may err, like all human beings, in his choice of people. In fact, the Monarch did err in the past like, for example, when he accelerated the promotion of certain

army officers to leadership posts only to discover later that they had been conspiring against him.

The fact that the King finds it necessary to change governments periodically also lends support to the proposition that he frequently finds his choice of people hindered by circumstances or otherwise. This is not to mention that conditions, whether on the local, regional or international scenes, may also change from time to time and in the process may require periodic, fresh reappraisals and new governments.

This is certainly one aspect of the issue. The other dimension touches upon the proposition that once the King makes a selection of people and endorses a certain policy, it is virtually impossible for him to know how much the chosen people are faithful to the policies that they have been entrusted to carry out.

Take, for example, the King's repeated interventions to make sure that all Jordanians are treated equally. The King's voice became literally hoarse from repeating over and over again that Jordanians are equal before the law, irrespective of their origin, religion or sex. Yet, in spite of these continuous reminders, some concerned officials went ahead with their own policies with utter disregard of the King's wishes and even instructions, on the false presumption that the King did not mean what he said or worse still they knew better than their King what was best for the country.

Surely we all remember the dramatic personal intervention of the King on behalf of many Jordanians who were denied passports or equal opportunities because of their origin. We know now that in spite of this intervention, the complaints about policies on passport rights went on as before.

The list of examples where the Monarch's wishes and policies went by unheeded by even the people whom he had personally chosen to govern is long.

The fact of the matter is that the King cannot physically be at every stage or step of state decision or practice. He certainly hopes that his chosen people will honour his policies faithfully and completely. Other than that, there is no way for him to control the acts of every police or civil

servant, or every ambassador's behaviour or every minister's practice.

That is why it would be totally inhuman to expect the country's head of state to be responsible for all and everything that happens. And that is why the King's patience runs out now and then and his exasperation ends by manifesting itself in the open call for a white revolution.

To me it is clear that when Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was mandated to execute a white revolution in Jordan there was an implied admission that previous governments did not comprehend well the King's intents and purposes even though he had personally chosen them. It is seldom that His Majesty calls for any kind of revolution within our ranks. As a matter of fact I have never heard him in the past resort to the term or phenomenon of revolution to rectify wrong policies or practices. The fact that he finally called for one now signals the degree of his personal anguish over the way his policies were misinterpreted or wrongly implemented.

It is also clear that the white revolution called for was not intended against any particular prime minister or high official but rather against an ongoing phenomenon.

In this sense, not even prime ministers can be held accountable for all the errors of their cabinet ministers, except to the extent that as their leader he should have had a closer watch over their performances. Normally, the designated prime minister selects his team on the basis of available information, geographic considerations and personal acquaintances and hopes for the best. I suppose that is why prime ministers often reshuffle their cabinets soon after their formation.

This disarray in the selection of officials leads to the conclusion that the process should be institutionalised instead of remaining a highly personal one, totally dependent on impressions, hearsay or temperaments.

Surely there must be a more scientific way of judging people whom we would like to see in posts of leadership. I am sure many have reflected on this matter and have found the right way which can be anything but the existing one.

## Washington Watch

# After Iowa and New Hampshire, Buchanan and Alexander rise

By Dr. James Zogby

PAT BUCHANAN is on fire. The former CNN commentator turned Republican presidential candidate is moving quickly in the polls. After victories in Republican Party caucuses in Alaska and Louisiana, Mr. Buchanan came in second in last week's Iowa contest. Buchanan was so close to the winner of the Iowa caucuses, Senator Robert Dole, that he and third-place finisher Lamar Alexander (the former governor of Tennessee), received the lion's share of the post-Iowa press coverage.

Mr. Dole, whose home state of Kansas borders Iowa, and who in his 1988 campaign won the Iowa caucuses handily with 37 per cent of the vote, was expected to do much better than the weak 26 per cent of the vote he received this year. The Iowa caucuses have never been won before with less than 30 per cent of the vote. So while Mr. Dole emerged from Iowa weakened, Buchanan and Alexander came out strengthened, ready for the New Hampshire primary.

As the first major statewide contests in a presidential election year, Iowa's caucuses and New Hampshire primary are important. Because they occur at the beginning and are spaced only a week apart, Iowa and then New Hampshire provide an opportunity for the candidates to meet voters one-on-one. Candidates campaigning in Iowa and New Hampshire shake hands, visit restaurants, speak at churches, and have coffee in the kitchens and living rooms of private homes. Winning New Hampshire and Iowa requires building trust through personal contact, and the creation of a strong organisation to get out the vote on election day.

Despite the perennial complaints from some political analysts, Iowa and New Hampshire remain important testing grounds for presidential candidates. After these two states, the campaign becomes national: instead of being able to focus on a single voter or even one state at a time, the campaign must be prepared to compete (as they will on March 5) in nine states at one time. After Iowa and New Hampshire, the candidates must rely on the media — both news coverage and paid advertising — to get out their message and win the support of

voters. Iowa and New Hampshire do more than test the candidates' ability to personally sell their messages to voters and build political organisations. These two states also effectively screen out those candidates who cannot succeed, thereby narrowing the field before the race goes national.

The first casualty in 1996 was Texas Senator Phil Gramm. His embarrassing fifth place finish in Iowa despite having spent \$15 million and building what experts described as one of the best organisations they'd seen in years forced him to drop out of the race. After New Hampshire, at least two if not the remaining eight Republican candidates will also leave the race.

Because the two states are dramatically different from one another in terms of demographics, economy and political style, candidates must be able to shift gears rapidly and convincingly. Iowa is a farm state. It's rural Republican Party is dominated by Christian conservatives who have been a powerful force in past presidential campaigns. New Hampshire, by contrast, is an industrial state. For years its economy suffered like that of most of the Northeast and Midwest, from the closing of industrial plants and the corresponding loss of jobs. Although currently in an upswing, in January New Hampshire's unemployment rate was lower than the average for the entire U.S., its workers are still anxious and feel economi-

cally insecure. Mr. Buchanan has played both states well. His conservative values campaign was endorsed by the Christian right wing in Iowa. His anti-abortion, pro-family rhetoric convinced at least 23 per cent of the Iowa Republican voters that he would carry their crusade to Washington. In New Hampshire, while not forsaking his theme of conservative values, Mr. Buchanan has focused on U.S. economic nationalism. He has been a strident critic of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs/World Trade Organisation (GATT/WTO) — both of which he denides as "instruments of surrender of America's sovereignty."

Mr. Buchanan's message

as too extreme, polls show that Mr. Buchanan's stock continues to rise. Clearly, he has discovered an issue that resonates with New Hampshire voters when he says: "When big business is shutting down factories here and moving them overseas and firing their workers... why should Republicans stand with the people that do that, rather than with the workers who lose their jobs?"

Pre-election polls in New Hampshire show Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Dole running even, with Mr. Alexander and Mr. Steve Forbes following. It is these four candidates who will emerge and move on from the New Hampshire primary. Because it is too fluid, it is difficult to predict the final outcome, but there are some signs that

finish). Mr. Forbes' numbers have shown a corresponding drop.

The positive news for Mr. Alexander is that the polls are showing that he is the only candidate with a strong favourable rating (51 per cent favourable to 22 per cent unfavourable). Mr. Buchanan's and Mr. Dole's favourable/unfavourable ratings are almost the same, with Mr. Forbes now showing very strong unfavourable ratings. Mr. Alexander also tends to be the least well-known of the major remaining candidates, which indicates that his campaign has more growth potential than any of his rivals at this point.

Mr. Buchanan's rise is a strong one, but he is probably limited in how far he can go. His strident and

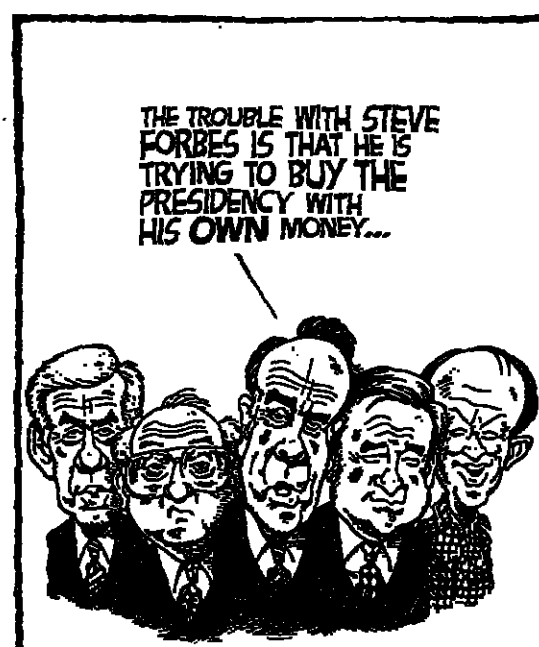
southern primaries in early March where he does not have significant grassroots support, he will need to find a message or way to bring voters to his standard beyond his standing as the candidate of the party establishment.

Mr. Alexander's rise, like Mr. Buchanan's, has been rhetoric. His plaid shirt "outsider" gimmick has worked to some extent as has his pleasant personality and his call for "new ideas." But increasing focus on his past business deals, examination of the seriousness of his new ideas and concern among Republican right-wingers about his position on abortion may also limit his rise and his ability to raise the money needed to compete when the campaign goes national. But Mr. Alexander has a national network and has shown the ability to raise money before. His competitiveness and viability will depend to some extent on how much positive free media he can receive coming out of New Hampshire.

Mr. Forbes, whose big money negative ads initially boosted him into a leading position in New Hampshire, has now dropped considerably. Voters seem to have tired of the incessant attacks he waged on Mr. Dole. The negative ads, therefore, appear to have backfired and he has taken a dive in the polls. But unlike the other candidates, Mr. Forbes has no need to raise money and therefore can remain in the race until he tires of running.

Coming out of New Hampshire, it will most probably be a four-man race (assuming Mr. Forbes stays in). The rhetoric will become sharper and the attacks even more harsh. It is not clear yet who will win the Republican nomination although, in the long run and barring any major mistakes, Mr. Dole still seems to have the edge in a national race.

It is an interesting race, not a pretty one — but then who ever said politics had to be pretty? What now worries Republican leaders is whether the party has been weakened by the divisive character of the nominating process so far, and whether, whoever wins, will be able to recover from the wounds received at the hands of his fellow Republican contenders enough to wage an effective campaign in the fall.



has caught on with New Hampshire's voters, but has raised consternation among the Republican Party's establishment. The have been uncomfortable with Mr. Buchanan since his 1992 primary challenge to then-President George Bush. That race and his uncompromising address to the 1992 Republican National Convention calling for a "culture war" to restore America's values, brought the Republican elite to see Mr. Buchanan as a divisive figure — some called him the Republican's Jesse Jackson.

If his uncompromising anti-abortion rhetoric caused them pain, his anti-free trade, anti-corporate greed rhetoric is proving to be even more toxic. But while a chorus of voices denounces Mr. Buchanan

could indicate future trends. What is critical about the various polls being taken now is how the candidates divide up the Republican fold. Among those Republicans who describe themselves as "conservative" or "very conservative," Mr. Buchanan receives almost 80 per cent of the vote, with Mr. Dole receiving about 50 per cent of those who describe themselves as "moderate" or "conservative." Mr. Alexander, on the other hand, leads among those voters who describe themselves as "liberal" or "moderate."

Interestingly, Mr. Forbes and Mr. Alexander compete for the same group. And as Mr. Alexander's percentage of the vote in New Hampshire has gone up (reflecting positive press following his Iowa





## Ukraine wants return of alleged Nazi-era policeman

By Rostislav Khotin  
Reuter

LYSETS, Ukraine — Bohdan Koziy, who allegedly served alongside Ukraine's Nazi occupiers, would rather forget all about the war.

But Ukrainian prosecutors, no longer bound by considerations of Soviet propaganda, are out to ensure that Mr. Koziy, now living in Costa Rica, does not.

And they say they have three bulging volumes of evidence which prove his involvement in war crimes.

"Koziy is sought on charges of treason. He served in the police under Nazi orders, took part in shooting civilians and rose through the ranks to become a senior officer," said Viktor Popov, who heads the investigation into Koziy's case.

"He personally took part in the round-up, beating and dispatch of local residents. In 1986, the prosecutor's office issued an order to arrest Mr. Koziy. The prosecutor signed it but the place for the accused's signature remains empty."

The list of Mr. Koziy's alleged crimes makes grim reading. Yellowing papers on Mr. Popov's desk accuse the alleged pro-Nazi of shooting dead 13-year-old Lucia Roziner in the autumn of 1942 after he discovered her hiding in a barn.

A year later, he allegedly attacked the three-year-old daughter of a Jewish doctor, dragged her off by the hair and shot her. Other papers reveal that he helped the Gestapo round up Jewish families then sent them to the ghetto in Stanislaw (now Ivano-Frankivsk) 10 km away.

None documented incident, he exposed a family who had been hidden by their Ukrainian neighbours. They were shot at the local cemetery.

Elderly residents of this neat western Ukrainian town remember Mr. Koziy as a taciturn, unpleasant young man.

"Koziy was a policeman in our village. He was a loathsome man, an ordinary policeman," said Yossyp Volysyanko, 89, seated on a sofa in his whitewashed house.

"I would see him with a pistol, on the road. Those police took everything from people on the roadside — buckwheat, tobacco, food. After the war he went off somewhere to America."

Mr. Koziy, stripped of his U.S. citizenship by the courts, fled to Costa Rica from the United States with his Yugoslav wife in 1984 before the authorities could deport him to the Soviet Union.

He has lived without fear of expulsion since a Costa Rican court turned down a Soviet extradition request in 1986.

Nazi hunters from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre are intent on getting him expelled, either through a presidential order or by having him declared an undesirable alien.

Mr. Popov produces a copy of policeman's identity card No. 11968962 bearing Mr. Koziy's name and particulars. Town residents, he says, have identified him in photographs of up to 12 people taken before the war.

"Even if Koziy had shot no one, the very fact he served in the police with an armband, rifle and a salary is a crime in itself," he said. "We refused to rehabilitate such people. But just look at the blood his hands were soaked in."

The files show that the commander of the Lysets police unit, tried and executed in 1952, named Mr. Koziy as one of his men. Another policeman was

given a 25-year prison term.

Mr. Popov's colleagues at Ukraine's SBU security service say the case against Koziy was suspended, never closed, because he was so hard to track down.

Mr. Popov said the Soviet authorities exploited campaigns against alleged war criminals for propaganda purposes. There was evidence the Kremlin was more interested at pointing a finger at Western countries housing them than bringing them to trial.

In Mr. Koziy's case, this meant a campaign of signatures from virtually all Lysets residents urging then U.S. President Ronald Reagan to send him back to Soviet Ukraine.

Local newspapers published articles about him under banner headlines reading: "Under the wing of American 'democracy'."

"Perhaps all these letters and campaigns were staged for the benefit of the Soviet system," Mr. Popov said. "But there were facts behind them."

**"Even if Koziy had shot no one, the very fact he served in the police with an armband, rifle and a salary is a crime in itself. We refused to rehabilitate such people. But just look at the blood his hands were soaked in."**

He harbours few illusions of extradition or conviction, with most witnesses long since dead. "More likely than not, he will probably die in Costa Rica," he said.

Ukrainian nationalists, who led the drive for independence in 1991, are uneasy that campaigns to bring alleged collaborators to justice could reopen wounds about Soviet-era attempts to brand them as anti-Semites.

Ukrainian groups campaigned for the release of John Demjanjuk, sentenced to death by an Israeli court in 1988 on charges that he was "Ivan the Terrible" who operated gas chambers at the Treblinka death camp. The conviction was overturned in 1993 on the grounds of mistaken identity.

Western Ukraine was a particularly sensitive region for wartime collaboration, subjected to oppressive Polish rule between the wars, seized by the Soviet Union in 1939 and buffeted by Stalin's collectivisation and mass deportations.

"Everyone was poor under the Poles. They took more and more of our land and made us speak Polish," said Dmytro Motrych, 72, returning from fields in a horse-drawn sleigh.

"Then the Soviets came and collectivised us. But they only got half the town to go to the kolkhoz (collective farm). People had illusions that the Germans would give Ukraine back to us. Our Ukraine lasted a week in Lysets with the Nazis — all the activists were thrown into prison."

## Indonesia's Jakarta finds latest floods too much

By Lewa Pardomuan  
Reuter

JAKARTA — It's not been a good year so far for Jakartans.

As if they don't have enough on their plate, with traffic jams, pollution and overcrowding, citizens of the Indonesian capital have been swamped twice in a month by the worst floods in years.

This year's deluge was enough to spark popular anger and draw verbal attacks from parliamentarians against what they say is the government's failure to cope with the situation.

Jakarta, which covers 630 square km of the plains of west Java, was crippled on Feb. 10 after monsoon rains triggered floods, submerging various areas in up to two metres of swirling, muddy water.

What hit home was the extent of the inundation, which transformed the capital's main thoroughfare, Jalan Thamrin, into a brown sea for the first time in a decade.

Even employees of fast-food outlet McDonalds, usually one of the busiest in the world, were left wringing their hands at customers unable to wade through thigh-high water to its doors.

Residents said traffic ground to a standstill across the city, home to up to 10 million people.

It took one driver nearly 12 hours to make the 10 km trip from the airport to the city centre, while others stranded at the airport preferred to fly to outlying cities than brave the capital's choked streets.

The floods affected 175,000 people, disrupted thousands of telephone connections and flight schedules and brought Jakarta's usual economic bustle to a standstill.

Twenty people died, some electrocuted or swept away by the waters. In a previous flood, in January six were killed.

To free Jakarta from floods is a truly Herculean job requiring a huge budget, the Jakarta Post said in a recent editorial.

"The government has built some flood control systems, with the biggest one in cideng, central Jakarta, but the current disaster proves that those efforts are far from adequate."

"Meanwhile, the municipal administration continues to complain about the

lack of a budget to build more," it said.

Jakarta's peak rainfall usually occurs either in late January or early February and the floods which follow cause considerable damage and affect the economy.

January's floods alone caused nearly \$20 million of damage in Jakarta, with the government posting a record high monthly inflation figure of 2.16 per cent that month, fuelled partly by increases in the cost of transporting food.

Unlike January's floods, February's disaster hit greater areas, particularly central Jakarta.

Indonesia's state-owned telecommunications company Pt Telkom Tlcm.Jk expects to lose nine billion rupiah (\$3.9 million) from the floods, which have damaged some 100,000 lines.

State-run electricity company plan suffered similar losses.

Environmentalists said the causes of Jakarta's floods included the silting up of the main clivung river, the diminishing water catchment area, the rapid growth in population, unpredictable climatic changes and the waters which flow into Jakarta during heavy rains in the mountainous areas of west Java.

Some residents blamed the rampant growth of apartment blocks as well as offices and residential areas as the cause of the floods. "I am mad, I am upset because of this flood," a marketing executive from a private company told Reuters.

"I've been living here for 15 years and it is the first time I experienced floods. They (developers) keep building apartment blocks everywhere. They don't care if there is enough open space for a water catchment area," she said.

Indonesia's Public Works Minister Radinal Mochtar told reporters after a recent parliamentary hearing that the capital's drainage system was inadequate.

"We have only been able to handle 25 per cent of Jakarta's flood-prone areas. This is because the city's drainage system is a mess," he was quoted by the Jakarta post as saying.

Mr. Mochtar also said up to 40 per cent of the city was located in lowlands with certain places in north



Jakarta residents watch from a footbridge as a truck is stranded in floodwaters along Jakarta's main thoroughfare, Jalan Thamrin. Residents are critical of the government's flood prevention strategies as the Indonesian capital has twice been hit by severe flooding this year (Reuter photo)

Jakarta at tide level or up to one metre below the line.

The government, responding to criticism both by residents and parliamentarians, said it planned to do more to over-

come the regular flooding. Planning Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said he would allocate 12 billion rupiah (\$5.3 million) to clean rivers and improve the drainage system in

Jakarta. The government also said it crack down on uncontrolled development of the mountainous areas in west Java to the south of Jakarta, where most of the city's 13

rivers originate. But it may take years to free Jakarta residents from flood.

"Each time rain comes, I become scared of floods," said a housewife.

## World condemns Israel bombs

(Continued from page 12) Agency of the European Union, expressed its "solidarity and total support for continuing on the courageous path to peace," Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli said.

A senior Russian foreign

ministry official, cited by Interfax news agency, said the blasts were "a stab in the back of the peace process," but should not deter further talks which were "the only way to peace."

The attacks were "aimed at Israelis as well as Palestinians ... an attempt to turn back the wheel of history."

In a statement issued in Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross also condemned the attacks, and said it had called on

several occasions for "an immediate halt to all attacks deliberately aimed at civilians."

Suspected Islamic suicide bombers blew up a crowded Jerusalem bus, killing 24 people, in the single deadliest attack since 1978. The second bomb exploded, near a group of soldiers in the southern port city of Ashkelon, killing two.

Maher Taher, a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said:

"We salute those who performed this heroic act and we believe that the armed struggle is a legitimate right as long as Palestinian territory remains occupied."

Another hardline group in the Syrian capital Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the bombings were "linked to the continuing occupation, the (Jewish) settlements" and because Israel "continues to make a mockery of Palestinian rights and self-determination."

## 26 killed in Israel

(Continued from page 1) Jerusalem bus and killed another three and wounded 25 in the southern city of Ashkelon.

The Likud mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, an outspoken critic of the government's peace policies, called for calm. "Don't link these bombings to politics," he said.

"In all my life I have never seen such horrible things, but we need restraint, we can't give in to panic."

But the militant Israeli right directly attacked Mr. Peres.

"Those who lifted the closure of the territories on Friday, ordered the bomb attacks on Sunday," charged Rehavam Zeevi, a member of parliament from the far right Moledet party.

Jerusalem police chief Asaf Hafez rejected such charges. "I'm not sure that even if the closure had been maintained, we could have prevented this attack," he said.

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## Arab economy remains vulnerable to oil price change

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The economies of Arab states are still highly vulnerable to fluctuations in oil prices although many of them have been engaged in reforms, the Arab League's financial chief said Sunday.

Jassim Al Manai, chairman of the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), said the economy of the 22-member League recorded a growth rate below the international average in 1994 because of the decline in crude prices.

But he added the reforms, including spending cuts and more efficient taxation systems, cut the deficit in the combined Arab budget.

"The Arab economy grew by 2.4 per cent in 1994. It was one of the lowest growth rates in five years due to a drop in oil prices and the U.S. dollar," he told reporters after releasing the annual Arab economic report for 1995.

"The decline in oil prices has had a negative effect on the general earnings of Arab countries, and consequently their economies. This shows the economy of all Arab states, not only oil producers, are largely influenced by the change in crude prices whether upward or downward," he said.

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Mr. Manai said that while oil producers, mainly those in the Gulf, are directly affected by lower oil prices, the other members suffer from lower financial assistance and remittances from their people in oil-producing nations.

He noted aid by oil-producing members totalled around \$1.4 billion in 1994 compared with more than \$5 billion a year during the oil boom of early 1980.

Oil prices in 1994 hit their lowest level in five years, standing at 15.5. This compares with \$16.33 in 1993 and \$18.44 in 1992.

The decline depressed the combined Arab crude revenues to \$86.8 billion from \$89 billion in 1993. Revenues surged to a 10-

## Iraqi dinar weakens

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Iraqi dinar lost ground against the dollar Sunday as the authorities denied rumours of a failure in talks over an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

The dinar dropped to around 720 to the dollar from around 610 to the dollar last week, dealers said.

The dinar strengthened to 400 to the dollar when talks opened in New York on Feb. 6, up from record lows of almost 3,000 dinars to the dollar before Iraq signalled its intention to hold the talks on Jan. 19.

In the banks, the dollar still traded at the fixed rate of 450 dinars to the dollar.

The official newspaper Al Jumhuriyah warned speculators against sparking price increases by circulating rumours about a future fall

lure of the negotiations on U.N. resolution 986.

The resolution adopted last April would allow Iraq to export up to \$1 billion of oil per quarter to buy food and medicine, under strict U.N. control.

Another official daily, Al Thawra, denounced the rumours, warned Iraqis against expecting the talks to conclude quickly, and asked them to be patient and cut spending.

An economist, Hammam Al Shammah, told the Alif Baa weekly that the dollar's decline in the last month allowed the central bank to rebuild its reserves.

"The amount of currency held by Iraqis surpassed our expectations," Mr. Shammah said.

Such staples as sugar, rice

and flour rose slightly in price, while a kilogramme sold for 1,400 dinars, up from 1,250 a week before.

After having dropped dramatically since the end of January, prices started climbing again last week after U.N. and Iraqi negotiators ended two weeks of talks without a preliminary agreement.

The commerce ministry, which supplies the market with large quantities of basic products to keep prices down, Sunday said Iraqis should present their ration cards to buy supplies in state cooperatives.

Such a step seeks to prevent some merchants from buying large quantities at low prices only to sell them for more later on the free market, he said.

## Egypt to privatise its beer and wine industries

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt will sell off its state-owned beer and wine companies in April amid a wave of privatisations involving 70 companies, a public sector official told the state news agency MENA Sunday.

The Egyptian Vineyards and Al Ahram Beverage companies will be among four companies "to be sold completely, except for 10 per cent of shares reserved for employees," Hamed Fahmi told the agency.

"The choice between proposed bids will be made next April" for the Vineyards, which produce wine, and Al Ahram, producer of the country's only beer, along with woodworking and the duty-free markets companies, Mr. Fahmi said.

Mr. Fahmi heads the state-owned Holding Company for Housing, Tourism and Cinema (HCHTC), responsible for selling off companies in the sector.

He detailed a plan passed by the cabinet on Feb. 15 to sell shares in 70 companies, including 30 hotels, "expected to bring three billion Egyptian pounds (\$955 million)," he said.

In June, 10 per cent of the Misr Hotels company will be sold, he said.

Thirty owned by Misr (Egypt) and other companies would also be sold, ranging from three to five stars located in Egypt's main tourist sites, including Cairo, Luxor, Aswan, Alexandria and the beach resort of Sharm Al

Sheikh.

Mr. Fahmi hinted that the private sector may eventually be allowed to invest in six "historical" hotels which officials earlier said would not be sold.

"There are six hotels which will not be sold, but it is possible that investors in a later stage will enter for renovation and modernisation operations in them," he said.

The hotels are the Mena House, near the Giza Pyramids, the Marriott and Manial Palaces in Cairo, the Cataract in Aswan, the Winter Palace in Luxor and the Palestine in Alexandria.

Mr. Fahmi did not specify when or what portion of the shares in the 30 hotels would be sold.

April will also see the sale of 30 per cent of the Al Qahira housing company, all of whose shares will eventually be put on the market, as

well as 8.7 per cent of the Muttahida housing company.

The holding company also plans to sell its shares in its joint ventures with the private sector, including a limestone service, by June, Mr. Fahmi said.

Egypt has sold off only 24 of 314 public-sector companies since it began an ambitious economic restructuring and privatisation plan in 1991.

The remaining companies have a total capital of \$28.5 billion but also an accumulated debt of \$20.8 billion, according to government figures.

Egyptian officials are to meet next month with a delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to discuss progress on privatisation and to reach an agreement on nearly \$4 billion worth of debt relief to Egypt.

## Asia sees summit with EU as chance to air grievances

BANGKOK (R) — Asia is looking to this week's first summit with leaders of the 15 European Union (EU) nations as a chance to air some of its main trade gripes to help pave the way for improved economic ties between regions.

Although senior officials from the 10 Asian nations attending the Asia-Europe meeting on March 1-2 in Bangkok say they do not expect any concrete decisions to be made at the summit, they hope the discussions will offer a chance to air grievances and smooth the way to solving potential problems.

"We are not going to go into specifics, that will be left for follow-up meetings," said one senior Thai foreign ministry official. "The meetings are short, and will be more general but if you agree on a general basis then it will be easier to deal with later on either bilaterally or as a group."

Leaders from the 15 EU nations will meet their counterparts from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus East Asian powerhouses Japan, South Korea and China for two days of talks with the aim of strengthening the "weak link" in the global triangle between North America, Europe and Asia.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore,

Thailand and Vietnam.

The meeting is also seen as a way for Europe to find its own access to Asian markets and avoid charges it is getting a "free ride" on liberalisations worked out already between Asia and North America, officials said.

The leaders are expected to discuss how to liberalise and facilitate sluggish trade and investment between the EU and East Asia as well as improved private sector ties and increase various forms of cooperation between the regions.

"We have noted that the rate of increase of trade, say between Thailand and the European Union, has been growing at a declining rate, or at least not a steady growth," Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Amnuay Viravan said in a recent interview. Other officials say this is a trend in the region.

With each side complaining the other is protectionist, some gripes are expected to be aired, officials say.

"But at least the dialogue will facilitate trade. Europe has come up with a lot of measures which we are not happy about," Mr. Amnuay said.

Most Asian officials say their principle complaint has to do with Europe's stiff anti-dumping rules, and the countervailing duties it imposes on many imports from Asia.

"EU's anti-dumping ap-

plications so far lacked transparency and were imposed arbitrarily," said Lee Ki-sung, manager of the America and Europe division at the Korea Foreign Trade Association in Seoul.

Other officials agreed, saying they would ask Europe to acknowledge the problem in order to work to solve it.

"In the past if there was any doubt as to if a product was being dumped they would announce it was under investigation and that would affect our exporters," a Thai official said. "When you announce it's being investigated the importer would stop importing. So we ask Europe to please take this into consideration and cooperate with us."

Other complaints to be brought up at this week's meeting or at follow-up talks between the regions deal with farm trade and Asia's dealing that protectionist EU measures, do not allow its products fair exposure in Europe.

The Philippines, for example, is currently involved in a dispute over access for its products like coconut oil in the EU market. Timber from Malaysia and Indonesia has also come under attack by environmental lobbyists in Europe.

Japan has been urged by the EU, on the other hand, to speed up its de-regulation process to allow European firms to compete more effectively in Japan.

Asian nations have stressed they don't want to political issues like human rights to be linked to improved trade although some European nations have suggested they might want to impose social or labour norms as a condition.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1996

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make an early decision about what you want to do and then be off to pleasant or cultural activities in a happy and positive fashion. Be the shining light in your group. Make certain everyone has a good time.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You can have an earnest and productive talk with those with whom you work side-by-side during the day but tonight study ways to improve alliances.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Take some time to find out what you can arrange with persons who share your interests. Tonight, don't take chances with your mate.

Gemini (May 21 to June 21) Get into all points as issues with family that require some clarification during the daytime while tonight don't get yourself in debt in anyway.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can focus all kinds of best and information you desire until midnight when you would be wise to keep matters at your residence on an even keel.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Getting into every aspect of your present financial condition is a hassle so you can have more to spend in the future, tonight put economy into active effect.

Virgo (August 22 to September 21) Whomever you want some deeper of a personal nature from will be willing to listen to your wants now, tonight don't spend more than you can afford on a pleasure.

LIBRA (September 22 to October 21) Have a fine time arranging some concerning happy moments with one you love the most today but tonight plans can go awry if family members get in the way.

SCORPIO (October 22 to November 21) Make a particular point to let good friends know what you have in mind in your joint vacation during the day but tonight discount unpleasant messages.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Sit down with one who can help you in some worldly matter of importance to you and you get support, tonight is no time to take chances with money.

CAPIRECORE (December 22 to January 20) One you have recently met and you can have a great enlightening discussion during the daytime but tonight don't try to put ideas across until you know more.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Your day and night must find out just what you want with one another and to live out any differences, tonight don't fret over a private anxiety.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind is a partnership arrangement and is to be resolved during the daytime, tonight find it wise to avoid a depressed friend.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

JORDAN TIMES  
TEL: 699634/684311

## THE Daily Crossword by Charles R. Woodard

ACROSS

- Director Frank
- Refrain syllable
- Comedian Sahl
- Curved moldings
- Lecher
- Melody
- Directs
- Warrant
- Estate or number
- Always, to poets
- Ireland
- Provides
- Hunter or Fleming
- Diamond measures
- Stole the show from
- Wrong
- Torrent
- Corrida sound
- Speak
- irrationally
- Board game
- Inter-
- Billfold item
- Middays
- Chair style
- Traded
- Coercion
- Latin I word
- Mortise
- companion
- Oahu landmark
- Opal or ruby
- Belt
- Greek god
- Muse of poetry
- Speed along
- Bench or chair
- Squal
- A Lindbergh
- Ironie
- Used

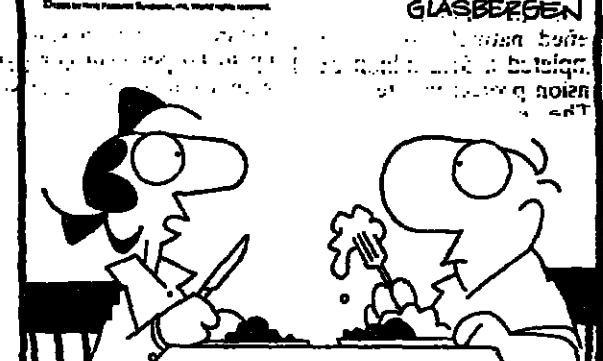
DOWN

- A Porter
- Playwright
- James
- Mississippi stream
- Like a ruby
- Agrees
- Shade makers
- Laugh uproariously
- Halo
- Boat dock
- Mine extracts
- Iranian coin
- Falsehood
- Joins
- Members of AMA: abbr.
- Palm product
- Freedom from worry
- St. John's bread society
- Turn over
- Donner or Khyber
- Famous bridge
- Inventor Howe
- College figures
- Gum or horse end
- Crowns
- Flying start
- Jules Verne's captain
- Rips
- Mexican dish
- Goddess: Lat.
- Peevish
- Computer info
- Clad or will opener
- Very long time
- Sketched
- Learn
- Thames school
- Blanc
- Music style

Puzzle solved:

AFAR SLEET SOFA  
LAMP POWER ATON  
PRIMARY ELECTION  
HOD PEAR ARISTA  
GAEL ASIN  
REBUTS CLUB DAB  
AWASH HAIR ARLO  
PARTY CONVENTION  
JRS HATE IRENE  
DYS AERO SPIDER  
PLED TAPA  
UGLIER EINE SPA  
SMOKE FILLED ROOM  
PAVE UNITS HALE  
ONER LEAST OPEN

## THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

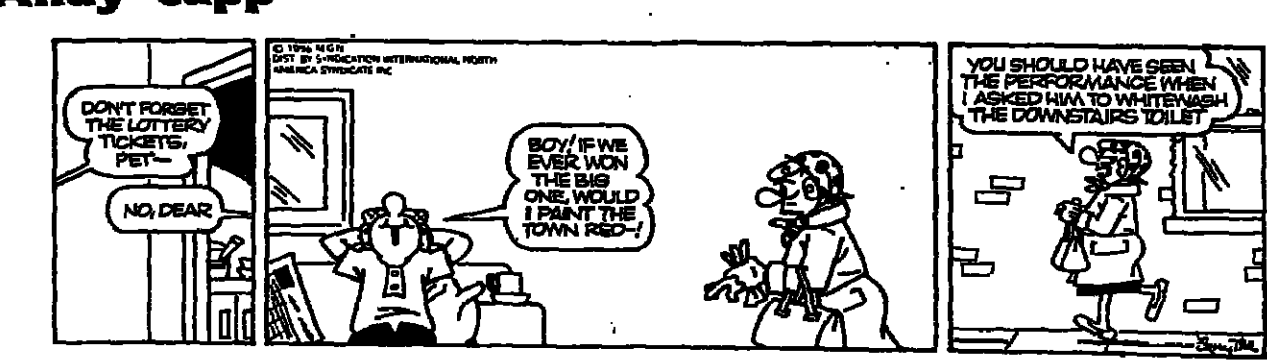


"I didn't have time to exercise today. If I seem bloated, it's because I'm retaining anxiety."

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff









# Johnson wins 50th straight 400m final

FAIRFAX, Virginia, (AFP) — Michael Johnson ran so fast he scared himself.

The 400- and 200-metre world champion ended a five-month layoff by breezing to his third consecutive Mobil Invitational 400m title Saturday, winning his 50th straight 400m final since 1989 by a 15-metre margin.

"To be truthful, this is one of the few times I am impressed with myself," Johnson said. "That's scary. I don't like to do that too often."

Johnson won his third title in a row here in 45.32 seconds, 1.78 seconds ahead of fellow American Mark Everett in second place.

"I surprised myself. I didn't intend to run that fast," Johnson said. "It felt pretty easy all the way around, a nice even race. I meant to take it out pretty aggressively, but it ended up being even all around."

The race was Johnson's first competition since last September at Tokyo, when he edged Frankie Fredericks of Namibia in the 200m.

"This was the longest time I have ever been off," Johnson said. "I was just excited to compete. I have been ready for about a month. I have been anxious to get back in a race."

Johnson will run next week at the U.S. indoor finals at Atlanta, his next step on the road to the Atlanta Olympics, where he wants to become the first man to sweep 200 and 400 crowns. His progress report here was a good one.

"It just tells me my training is going good," Johnson said.

"Good training doesn't always mean you will have good races. My training has been excellent, better than last year. But up until now, I didn't know how I would race. This tells me I'm ready to compete and on target to do what I want to do this year outdoors."

Johnson needs the International Amateur Athletics Federation to alter the Atlanta Games schedule for him to



American Michael Johnson (4) leads the pack as he heads into a turn during the men's 400m race at the Mobil Invitational at George Mason University on Sunday. Johnson won the race with a time of 45.32, the fastest time in the race at the Mobil Invitational at George Mason world this year (Reuters photo)

have a chance at the double. Johnson said he has been assured that change will come next month.

"Their exact words were they will do everything they can to accommodate me and they control the schedule," Johnson said. "You never

know for sure until it's a reality. That will be a relief. I am convinced it is going to be changed. They have given me enough indications."

Canada's Donovan Bailey, who won the 60m dash in 6.60 seconds, was relieved Saturday when he was told

the world 50m record of 5.56 seconds he set earlier this month in Reno had been ratified. Some claimed Bailey had a false start in the record run.

"I was convinced I ran the world record. It was up to someone else to realise what

was going on," Bailey said.

Bailey, who might run at the U.S. meet, was pleased with his indoor season but unhappy with his time here.

"I just had a bad race," he said. "I don't think I was focused. The block slipped before the first start and I was really worried about it on the second one. I didn't have as respectable a start as I thought I would."

Bailey will begin outdoor races in May at Brazil and run three or four others before June's Canadian Olympic trials.

Gwen Torrance matched her personal best of 7.02 seconds to win the women's 60 metres by 14-hundredths of a second over Jamaica's Michelle Freeman, who pushed her to that career best two weeks ago in Reno.

"It was an OK race," Torrance said. "Last year it took all year to reach 7.04. I was hoping to go better. But I got out with Michelle and she left me at the start before. That indicates I'm improving on my start."

World indoor and outdoor sprint hurdles champion Allen Johnson, a hometown favourite, defended his 60-metre hurdles in 7.54 seconds. He said the race falls at a bad time for runners to produce peak times.

"With the Olympics so close, you can't help but think about it," he said. "A lot of people aren't running as fast as they did last year because they are training for the Olympics."

But few will be favored to win in Atlanta as he is in the 100m hurdles.

"I'm happy to be the favorite. But I don't focus on it," Allen Johnson said. "I know I can lose."

Freeman led a Jamaican sweep in the women's 60m hurdles, winning in 7.82 seconds with Gillian Russell and Dionne Ross following.

Bob Kennedy edged Morocco's Khalid Kairourani by one-tenth of a second to win the 3,000 metres in 7:42.29, the third-fastest U.S. indoor clocking ever.

# France returns to top 10 in FIFA world rankings

ZURICH (AP) — Riding their first African Cup of Nations title, South Africa's "Bafana Bafana" climbed six spots to 23rd in the monthly FIFA rankings, while France returned to the top 10.

Coming off the African Cup, which ended Feb. 3 in Johannesburg, "Bafana Bafana" — South Africa's nickname for the national team loosely translated to "our boys" — climbed six places and were among several African teams to show dramatic improvement.

Bronze-medal winning Zambia was the biggest winner, climbing eight spots to 15th to become Africa's highest-ranked national team. Other big African movers were Ghana — which Zambia beat in the third-place game, up three spots to 16th; African Cup runner-up Tunisia, up six to 25th and non-qualifier Morocco, up seven to 26th.

Brazil remained atop the rankings for the 23rd consecutive month, while Italy edged past Germany into second. Spain, Russia and the Netherlands remained fourth through

sixth, followed by France, Argentina, Denmark and Mexico.

France, which ended 1995 in eighth, fell to 13th last month but rebounded in February.

Romania was 11th, ahead of Sweden, the Czech Republic, the United States, Zambia, Ghana, Bulgaria and Norway tied for 17th, Colombia and Portugal.

Among the teams showing big improvement from January, Bolivia and China showed the largest jumps among teams in the top 50.

Bolivia climbed 16 spots to 40th, while China, having vanquished Hong Kong, Macao and the Philippines last month to qualify for the Asian Cup, also jumped 16 spots to 50th.

Nigeria, the defending African Cup Champion which withdrew from the tournament a week before the start claiming security concerns, dropped one place to 39th, while Norway fell seven places to 17th.

# PSG, Monaco out of French Cup

PARIS (R) — Paris St. Germain and Monaco, two of the favourites, were knocked out of the French Cup on Saturday.

Holders PSG fell 3-1 at Auxerre while Lille beat Monaco on penalties in third round ties.

Two others first division clubs, Montpellier and Strasbourg, qualified for the quarter-finals on Friday by beating Toulon and Niort respectively.

The Paris club, still league leaders despite losing their last three matches, were hoping to restore some pride against Auxerre, who won the cup two years ago.

But they were reduced to 10 men after 29 minutes when defender Francis Llacer was sent off for a vicious tackle on Auxerre midfielder Sabri Lamouchi.

The Burgundy side, second in the league three points behind PSG, scored early then took advantage of the manpower advantage to add a second.

The first came after four minutes when Lilian Laslandes scored from a Sabri Lamouchi cross. Lamouchi made it 2-0 two minutes before the interval.

Paris briefly gave the impression they could fight back when Youri Djorkaeff scored from a free kick in the 57th minute.

But nine minutes later Laslandes put the issue beyond doubt by brilliantly heading his second goal of the night.

"We look ridiculous," said Paris international goalkeeper Bernard Lama. "We did quite a few things wrong tonight. Late, we've been doing a lot of things wrong."

Lama, knowing another defeat would plunge the club into a deep crisis, prayed for a reaction against Lens in a league match on Tuesday.

"We just can't go on losing all the time," he said.

Lille, struggling to avoid relegation, forgot their worries to move past stunned Monaco thanks to

goalkeeper Jean-Claude Nadon, who stopped an effort by Brazilian Sonny Anderson to give his side a 5-4 victory in a tense penalty shootout.

The teams were tied 1-1 after extra time. Antoine Sibierski had put Lille in front after 22 minutes but Enzo Scifo equalised for the principality team in the 48th minute.

Former European champions Marseille, currently in the second division, ended the impressive run of little Blenod with Marc Libbra scoring twice in the last four minutes to give them a 2-0 victory.

Blenod, playing in the equivalent of the fifth division, had knocked out two first division sides, Bastia and Le Havre, in the previous rounds.

The lowest side left in the draw are third division Nimes, who beat another third division club, Thourous, 2-0 on Saturday.

# Ivanisevic ousts Becker to reach final

ANTWERP (R) — Goran Ivanisevic ousted Australian Open champion Boris Becker on Saturday and meets Michael Stich in the final of the European Community Tennis Championship.

Ivanisevic defeated Becker 6-4 7-6 (7-5) in the first semifinal and victory over Becker's German compatriot Stich in the best-of-five-sets final would bring the big-serving Croat his third successive tournament victory.

Sixth seed Stich relied on his superior serve and more versatile game to beat unseeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev 6-4 6-1 in the second semifinal.

"I really like to play (Ivanisevic)," Stich said. "I believe I have a positive head-to-head record."

"He's the favourite tomorrow but I will have fun out there, give all I've got and if it works out fine, great," said Stich, playing in only his second tournament since tearing a ligament in his left ankle last October.

Ivanisevic, who extended his winning streak to 14 matches, again displayed the accuracy which has earned him titles in Zagreb and Dubai in recent weeks.

"I'm confident, won a lot of matches. I just feel that in any position, if I'm down or up, I can win the match," Ivanisevic said. "I'm playing my best tennis at the moment."

Top seed Becker, the 1995 ATP tour world champion, struggled with his first serve and made too many unforced errors in the opening set, which lasted just 27 minutes.

Becker, who had won nine of his 14 previous encounters



Boris Becker

with Ivanisevic, had a break point in the eighth game of the second set but the Croat pulled out of trouble with an ace.

The match was primarily a serve-and-volley battle, with only a few exciting rallies and occasional yelling by a frustrated Ivanisevic in the second set.

Ivanisevic received a warn-

ing for slamming his racket to the ground after wasting a vital break point at 5-5 in the second set but regained his composure.

Becker, who missed Germany's Davis Cup match against Switzerland and last week's Dubai open because of inflamed leg ligaments and a back problem, made life easy for the Croat by hitting a

double fault on match point in the tie-break.

"I didn't mind," quipped Ivanisevic, who hit 20 aces.

He said that playing Becker, who fired 18 aces, had helped him stay focused.

"We always have tough matches. If you don't find concentration against him, you're gone, you're out," Ivanisevic said.

# Rubin loses title hopes

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — Third seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa ended Chanda Rubin's hope of claiming her first career title on the WTA Tour with a 6-4, 6-4 semifinal upset of the top seed at the IGA tennis classic on Saturday.

In the final, Coetzer will meet second-seeded defending champion Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands, who served her way past seventh-seeded Russian Elena Likhovtseva 7-6, 6-3 in a rematch of last year's final.

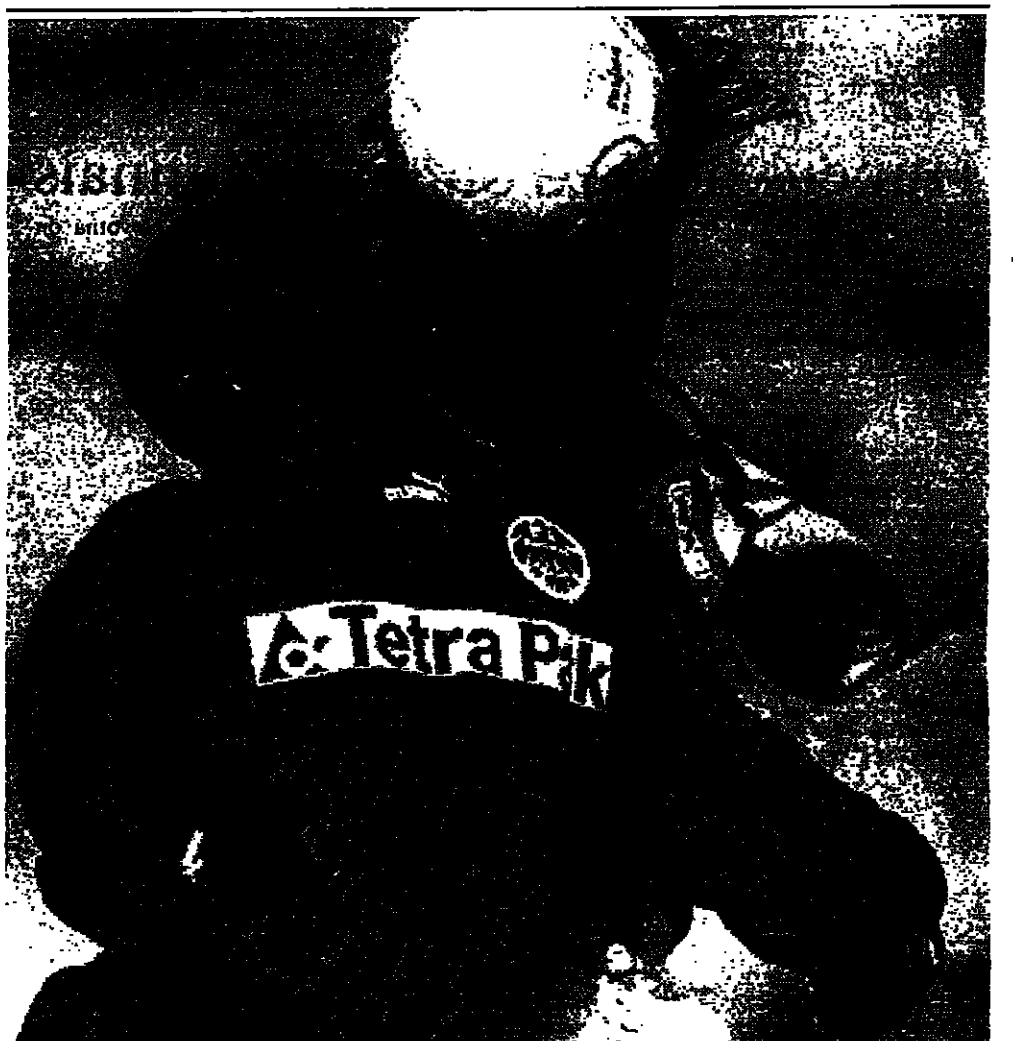
Coetzer had never beaten the 20-year-old Rubin in four previous meetings. But the 17th-ranked South African broke the 10th-ranked American's serve five times Saturday.

"This win was very big, especially against somebody like Chanda. She's been playing great tennis," Coetzer said of Rubin, who reached her first Grand Slam semifinal last month at the Australian Open.

Coetzer then reeled off five games in a row to take a 5-2 lead. But Rubin fought back to make it close at 5-4 before the third seed served out the match.

Rubin, who lost to eventual champion Monica Seles in Australia, had never been a top seed in a WTA event before.

Schultz-McCarthy and Likhovtseva held their serves throughout the first set, although the Dutchwoman had to fight back from 0-30 down in the 12th game to force the tie-break.



Jay Okocha from Eintracht Frankfurt (left) and Jens Jeremies from 1860 Munich head for the ball during their German first division soccer match (Reuters photo)

# Rostock end Dortmund's unbeaten streak

BONN (R) — Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund suffered their first home loss of the season on Saturday when they were defeated 2-1 by Hansa Rostock, ending a 15-match unbeaten streak.

Injury-depleted Borussia remained three points clear at the top of the table despite the beating by Hansa, who had inflicted the only other league defeat of the season on Dortmund in Rostock.

But Bayern Munich have the chance to join them on 41 points when they play Uerdingen on Sunday.

Steffan Baumgart put Rostock ahead in the 45th minute with his ninth goal of the

season. Jonathan Akpoborie made it 2-0 in the 54th minute.

Czech international Patrik Berger reduced the arrears with a goal for Dortmund two minutes later but Hansa, a former east German club, held out for victory.

The match got off to a listless start on a slippery pitch and sprang to life only after the interval. Dortmund missed a number of top players through injury, including Karlheinz Riedle, Knut Reinhardt, Julio Cesar and Stefan Reuter.

"We lost to very strong opponents," Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said.

"Rostock played solidly in defence but we never found our rhythm."

Rostock trainer Frank Pagelsdorf was happy his team had a game at all: Their first two matches after the winter break were postponed due to bad weather.

"It was tough for both teams on this pitch but it was still a good match," he said. "We tried to play with discipline and at the end we had more clear chances to score."

Bayern, beset by internal squabbling, now have the chance to catch Dortmund, although they have lost both their matches since the winter break.

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## Asprilla behaviour overshadows Newcastle Premiership fight

LONDON (AFP) — The race for the Premiership title intensified on Saturday as Newcastle United, led by striker Faustino Asprilla, were held to a 3-3 draw at struggling Manchester City, but a pulsating match was marred by the conduct of controversial Asprilla.

The 26-year-old Colombian, who scored his first goal for the club, was involved in a series of clashes with City skipper Keith Curle.

After one tussle in which he had been hauled to the ground, Asprilla thrust an elbow into the former England defender's face.

The South American was later booked for dissent and after the referee had blown the final whistle, another confrontation with Curle ended with the Colombian head-butting the City man.

Curle himself would only say: "People can judge for themselves."

Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan, whose judgement was questioned when he signed the Colombian, said he did not see the head-butting incident.

He said: "I was aware that something happened at the end but I didn't see it myself. All I saw from the first incident was Curle grabbing Faustino but I didn't see what happened next."

"I knew there was a fracas but I don't want to say anything until I've seen it properly and can judge for myself. I am not trying to be evasive but I can't comment on something I haven't seen."

The Asprilla incidents overshadowed a storming encounter in which Newcastle showed their championship determination by coming from behind three times to earn a point.

The draw gave the Magpies a seven-point Premiership lead over second-placed Manchester United, who visit basement club Bolton on Sunday.

City, desperate for points in their bid to escape from the clutches of relegation, took the lead three times.

Ireland international Niall Quinn netted after 16 and 62

minutes and German Uwe Rosler after 81 as City scored three in the league for the first time this season.

But Newcastle, beaten 2-0 at West Ham in mid-week, bounced back each time as Belgian international Philippe Albert netted after 44 and 81 minutes, either side of Faustino Asprilla's effort.

The 71st-minute goal was the Colombian's first since his 7.5 million move to the Magpies from Parma.

Stan Collymore, gatecrashed the shoot-out between 30-goal Alan Shearer and 26-goal Robbie Fowler with a double as Liverpool kept their slim title hopes alive with a 3-2 win at defending champions Blackburn.

Collymore took his season's tally to 13 with goals after 10 and 21 minutes and Michael Thomas added a third on 70, with Jason Wil-

men in the hunt and veteran striker Harford then hit the last-gasp leveller which keeps Wimbledon out of the bottom three.

Everton produced a three-goal salvo in nine second-half minutes to trounce Nottingham Forest 3-0 at Goodison Park.

Winger Andrei Kanchelskis opened the scoring on 52 minutes, Blues skipper Dave Watson added a second four minutes later, and Duncan Ferguson completed the defeat on the hour.

John Hartson, recalled by Arsenal boss Bruce Rioch, was the match-winner as West Ham's six-match victory streak was ended 1-0 at Upton Park.

Welsh international Hartson was on target after just 88 seconds — the fastest goal of the day — but Julian Dicks squandered the chance to

## 'Graf wants Tiriac as manager'

BONN (R) — Steffi Graf plans to hire Romanian Ion Tiriac as her new manager.

Der Spiegel magazine reported on Saturday.

A contract with Tiriac has been drawn up but not yet signed, the weekly said.

The magazine said the player's father Peter Graf, in jail since August as part of a tax-evasion probe which also focuses on the world number one, had advised against hiring successful entrepreneur Tiriac, once a leading player.

"But in the end Steffi decided for herself," it quoted an unnamed friend as saying in a report to be published on Monday.

Press reports have accused Peter Graf of withholding millions of marks in taxes and not declaring around 40 million marks (about \$27 million) of his millionaire daughter's earnings.

The Wimbledon champion has said she put all her financial affairs in her father's hands from an early age. But she has staunchly defended her father's actions, attacking the specialists he employed to help maximise her income.

## BRITISH SOCCER

cox and Tim Sherwood replacing for Rovers in the 25th and 83rd.

Ruud Gullit was Chelsea's match-winner as the Londoners bounced back from two successive League defeats to secure a 3-2 victory over struggling Southampton at The Dell.

The Dutch star grabbed a 53rd-minute winner after the sides had shared four goals in the first period.

Tommy Widdrington (six minutes) and a Steve Clarke own goal (38) kept the Saints level after Dennis Wise had struck twice for the visitors after 20 and 26 minutes, the second a penalty.

Mick Harford grabbed an injury-time equaliser for relegation-threatened Wimbledon in a 3-3 draw with Aston Villa at Selhurst Park after the struggling Dons had helped the Coca-Cola Cup finalists with two own goals.

Alan Reeves and Kenny Cunningham were the guilty men, with Dwight Yorke also on target for Villa with his 20th goal of the season, from the penalty spot.

But Jon Goodman struck twice to keep Joe Kinnear's

team the Hammers a point by missing a second-half penalty.

Tottenham boosted their hopes of taking a European place as Chris Armstrong netted his 14th goal of the season to secure a 1-0 win over struggling Sheffield Wednesday at White Hart Lane.

Middlesbrough brought their dismal run of eight successive Premiership defeats to an end, but Bryan Robson's men had to be happy with a goalless draw against relegation-threatened Coventry at Highfield Road.

The Football Association (FA) confirmed they will be studying video footage of the two controversial incidents between Asprilla and Curle.

FA spokeswoman Clare Tomlinson said in a statement: "We are very concerned about the alleged incidents and will be viewing the relevant video evidence from all angles early next week."

"We will also be studying the reports from the match officials and if further action is deemed necessary it will be taken."

## PSV's Ronaldo to miss rest of season

AMSTERDAM (R) — Teenaged Brazilian striker Ronaldo will miss the rest of this season after being told that he needs an operation on his right knee, his club PSV Eindhoven said on Sunday.

Ronaldo, 19, will undergo surgery next week on his damaged knee and will need at least three months' rest, writing himself off for the rest of this season. He hopes to return to action for his country in the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July.

"The kid has played football non-stop since his 17th birthday," said PSV coach Dick Advocaat. "He's played so many games at the top level without a break."

"It's a big blow but not a catastrophe," he added.

Ronaldo will miss the final stages of the two-horse race for the Dutch League title between PSV and European champions Ajax Amsterdam. The two clubs are level on 53 points, though Ajax have a game in hand.

Ronaldo has had problems with both his knees this season and has played only seven full league games. But he has still scored 12 goals, plus six during PSV's progress to the last eight of the UEFA Cup.

Last season Ronaldo was top scorer in the Dutch first division with 30 goals.

## Olajuwon leads Rockets past Lakers

HOUSTON (AP) — Hakeem Olajuwon scored 29 points and Kenny Smith came off the bench to hit four straight 3-pointers as the Houston Rockets beat Los Angeles 96-94 Saturday night to snap the Lakers' eight-game winning streak.

The Lakers outscored the Rockets by 17 points in the third quarter and led 74-65 entering the fourth before Smith led a 14-2 run that put Houston in control.

Robert Horry scored 18 points for the Rockets and Nick Van Exel had 18 for the Lakers.

Magic Johnson, playing for the first time in three games, played 11 minutes in the first half before his right thigh tightened. He did not return in the second half.

Cavaliers 103, Nets 74: In Cleveland, Chris Mills scored 18 of his 21 points in the first half as Cleveland built a 19-point halftime lead on the way to a 29-point victory over New Jersey.

Danny Ferry scored 23 for the Cavs, who won for the ninth time in 11 games and stopped New Jersey's season-high five-game winning streak. The 74 points represented the Nets' lowest output of the season.

Mills and Ferry both did much of their work from long range. Mills going 3-of-4 on 3-point shots and Ferry 5-of-8. Dan Majerle added 12 points on 4-of-7 shooting — all from behind the arc.

Armon Gilliam and Jayson Williams scored 15 each for New Jersey.



Los Angeles Lakers forward Earvin "Magic" Johnson reacts to an official's call as Houston Rocket centre Hakeem Olajuwon (left) looks on during first quarter NBA action at the Summit in Houston (Reuters photo)

Pacers 104, Hornets 90: In Charlotte, North Carolina, Reggie Miller powered a third-quarter surge that sent Indiana over Charlotte and snapped the Hornets' longest winning streak of the season at five games.

Miller scored 10 of his 21 points as the Pacers opened the quarter with a 22-5 run on the way to their 15th victory in 18 games against Charlotte.

Rik Smits had 22 points and Mark Jackson added 21

points, 14 assists and nine rebounds for Indiana, which became the first team in the last six games to score more than 100 points against Charlotte.

Dell Curry and Glen Rice had 18 points each to lead the Hornets.

Supersonics 104, Kings 91: In Seattle, Shawn Kemp had 30 points and 18 rebounds and Gary Payton scored 23 as Seattle extended its season-high win streak to nine games.

The Kings lost their season-high 10th straight, trailing by three points

early in the second quarter. Seattle outscored the Kings by 25 points through the end of the third quarter and led 81-62 entering the fourth.

Mitch Richmond's 22 points led Sacramento.

Warriors 86, Clippers 80: In Oakland, California, Golden State beat Los Angeles despite 36 per cent shooting and its lowest point total of the season.

Kevin Willis and Bimbo Coles, acquired Thursday from Miami, made their debuts for the Warriors. Coles had three points, all on free

throws, and was 4-for-6 from the field. Willis had six points and five rebounds. Both were greeted by applause when they entered the game as substitutes in the first period.

B.J. Armstrong's 18 points topped five warriors in double figures. Joe Smith had 17 points and 11 rebounds and Rony Seikaly added 14 points.

The Clippers, who lost for the first time in 13 games, were led by Loy Vaught with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Terry Dehere added 19 points off the bench.

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RESULTS			
Indiana	104	Charlotte	90
Cleveland	103	New Jersey	74
Houston	96	LA Lakers	94
Denver	99	Utah	90
Seattle	104	Sacramento	91
Golden State	86	LA Clippers	80

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## Huber knocked out of semifinals

ESSEN (R) — Fourth seed Jana Novotna played what she called her best match of the week to upset German second seed Anke Huber 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals of the \$450,000 WTA tournament in Essen on Saturday.

The Czech holder of the title will meet top seed Iva Majoli of Croatia in the final. Majoli, 18, cruised past

Sweden's unseeded Asa Carlsson 6-3, 6-2 earlier in the day.

"There is always room to improve, but this was my best match of the tournament," Novotna said. "The more I play, the better I get and I hope this holds true tomorrow."

Huber, ranked fifth in the

world, had Novotna on the ropes early on as a strong baseline game helped her to a 3-0 lead.

But Novotna bounced back by breaking Huber's service twice to take the first set.

Huber fought hard in the second set but could not match the experience of the former Wimbledon finalist.

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♥ A Q 6 4  
♦ A Q 9  
♣ 10 3

**EAST**  
♠ K J 8  
♥ 10 8 5  
♦ Q 8 7 2  
♣ 8 4 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 4

The bidding:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass  
2♥ Pass 2NT Pass  
3NT Pass

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Since the jump to two no trump was invitational in North-South methods, North's rise was a distinct stretch. However, every card was right and all suits were destined to break favorably so, after a spade lead, declarer should have been able to take 10 tricks on this hand from a pair event. But see what a little falsecarding can do.

West led a top-of-the-spagade, dummy played low, but East nevertheless inserted the jack. Declarer's queen won and the jack of clubs was led, covered by the king and won with the ace. Declarer called for a low spade, and East continued the deception by producing the king!

South, hungry for overtricks, could not divine the heart division, but one thing seemed sure: West still had 8 6 in spades in front of dummy's 10 7, and a fourth spade trick was there for the taking. It seemed right to cash the spades with the help of the "marked" finesse and see who discarded what.

When declarer led the four of spades to the six and seven, the roof fell in East stole the right of spades and it was not difficult to find the diamond switch — down one.

There might or might not be a moral in this for duplicate players. All we can think is that, since not too many pairs would get to game on a combined 22 point, we would have taken the nine sure tricks — four clubs, three hearts and two spades — and in the process made an overtrick. At rubber bridge, the kindest thing that can be said about declarer's play is that there must have been a full moon!

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# King, Queen leave for U.K., U.S.

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday left for the United Kingdom and the United States.

The King is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor. The King, 60, underwent tests at a London hospital last year for a chronic ear problem caused by the perforated drum. But doctors could not operate on it then because of an infection.

The Monarch will stay in Britain before heading for Washington early next month for a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton to discuss Middle East and bilateral issues.

He will also undergo routine scheduled medical tests at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minnesota, where he had a successful cancer operation in 1992. Mayo doctors have since given him a clean bill of health at every regular check-up.

"I will undergo surgery to emend the right ear and perforate its drum," King Hussein said in an emotional letter to the Jordanian people Saturday.

He did not provide other details, but his private physician, Maj. Gen. Samir Faraj, said the Monarch will undergo a surgery for the perforation of the ear drum, a case whose medical name is tympano plasty.

"It is simply to close the



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Sunday board the plane after being seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Royal family members and senior officials before departing to the United Kingdom and the United States (Petra photo)

hole in the drum of the right ear," Gen. Faraj told the Associated Press. "It is not a serious surgery, but a very delicate one."

The operation will be done in a hospital in Los Angeles. During his U.S. visit King Hussein will deliver a number of lectures and meet with political leaders including President Bill Clinton to discuss the peace process and other issues of concern to

Jordan and the United States, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King and Queen were seen off by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Princess Taghreed, Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath and other Royal family members as well as Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, cabinet members and other officials.

Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent during the King's absence.

Accompanying the King on his trip are Prince Zeid Ben Shaker, Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khasawneh, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, Princess Ghida Talal and Mustafa Qaisi, the King's advisor on national security affairs.

# World condemns Israel bombs as militants call them heroic

Agencies

THE UNITED STATES, Europe and Middle Eastern countries roundly condemned Sunday's double bomb attack in Israel which killed 26 and injured at least 77, which Palestinian militant groups hailed as a "heroic act."

Governments branded the attacks "barbaric" and said they hoped they would not wreck the fragile Middle East peace process, temporarily frozen by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres for a week of mourning of the victims.

Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat said the attacks, claimed by the Islamic resistance movement, were "not military, but terrorist operations" designed to damage the peace process.

Saudi Arabia condemned the bombing, underlining its opposition to "terrorism," its information minister said in Cairo.

"Saudi Arabia is totally opposed to terrorism no matter what its form, place or perpetrators," Abdul Salam Al Farisi told journalists upon arriving in Cairo for a three-day visit.

His Egyptian counterpart, Sawfat Al Sherif, who welcomed the Saudi, also said

Egypt "condemns all forms of terrorism aiming to weaken the peace process."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa earlier denounced the bombing as "a return to practices which must be stopped."

He said Egypt called for restraint and urged Palestinians and Israelis not to resort to provocation. Both sides must continue peace talks and stop anyone who wanted to hinder or affect the peace process, he added.

Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. It hosted several rounds of talks that followed the 1993 peace deal between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel and often mediated behind the scenes to help the two sides overcome snags.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton condemned the two deadly bombings in Israel and said the "enemies of peace" will not be able to stop progress towards a new Middle East.

"These brutal acts of terror, which once again have taken the lives of innocent Israelis and at least one American citizen, offend the conscience of the world," Mr. Clinton said in a statement. "They must not only

be condemned; they must be brought to an end," he said.

A "shocked" British Prime Minister John Major found common ground with Mr. Peres when offering his condolences to the blast victims and their families.

"London has suffered its own bombings in the last fortnight, including on a bus last weekend, so I know all too well the devastation they will have caused, shattering both lives and hopes that such indiscriminate and senseless violence might at last have given way to dialogue," Mr. Major said, referring to IRA bomb blasts in London which left three dead and 110 injured.

French President Jacques Chirac condemned the "cowardly" attacks. In a letter to Mr. Peres, he wrote: "I know that they will not deter your government and its partners from the courageous and determined construction of this peace hoped for by all the peoples of the region."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel condemned the bombings as "cowardly and detestable terrorist attacks," in a statement released by Bonn.

Italy, which currently holds the revolving six-month pres-

(Continued on page 7)

# Syria slams Turkey over terrorism charges

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Sunday condemned Turkish accusations that Damascus was relying on terrorism to solve a long-running dispute between the two countries on the use of water from the Euphrates River.

The official daily Tishreen said Syria was keen to maintain good ties with Turkey and never did anything to harm relations between the two countries.

But Syria's efforts to keep good ties "were met by inventing crisis and repeating old and bitter charges like the one of terrorism, which has no proof and is based on suppositions which has no link with reality," the paper said.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel on Saturday accused Syria of backing separatist rebel Kurds in Turkey instead of holding talks with Turkey on the water dispute.

"Syria must give up using terror as an instrument of foreign policy and seek a solution to its problems with Turkey in a way fitting to good neighbourly and

brotherly ties," Mr. Demirel said in a message to Gulf states and Egypt explaining Turkey's position.

Turkey says it fulfills an accord which requires it to allow the flow of 500 cubic metres per second of water to Syria.

But Damascus says Turkey's multi-billion-dollar plan for the construction of several dams on the Euphrates has led to a sharp decline in the flow of waters to Syria, which uses it for drinking and irrigation.

Rival Arab neighbours Syria and Iraq reached rare agreement in talks last week to launch an international campaign to force Turkey to accept "fair and reasonable sharing" of the Euphrates, which flows to Syria and Iraq from Turkey.

Abdullah Ocalan, whose rebel Kurdistan Workers Party has battled for 11 years for control of southeast Turkey, is said to be based in Syria or the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. Syria denies the charge.

# Israeli blast latest in cycle of bloodshed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The blasts in Jerusalem and Ashkelon on Sunday were the latest in a cycle of bloodshed that has killed at least 150 people since the 1993 Israel-PLO peace deal.

The following is a chronology of the main incidents:

— Feb. 25, 1994: Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein sprays gunfire on kneeling Arab worshippers in a mosque in Hebron in the West Bank, killing 29 before survivors beat him to death.

— April 6: Bus blast in northern Israel town of Afula kills eight Israelis and suicide bomber. The militant Hamas claims responsibility.

— April 13: Bus blast in

crowded bus station in Israeli town of Hadera kills five and a Hamas suicide bomber.

— Oct. 14: Israeli soldier Nachshon Waxman, kidnapped by Hamas, is killed during failed Israeli rescue attempt. Israeli commando officer and three Hamas kidnappers also die.

— Oct. 19: Hamas bomber Saleh Abdul Rahim Al Souwi kills himself and 22 others in suicide bombing on Israeli bus on Tel Aviv's main Dizengoff Street.

— Nov. 2: Palestinian journalist Hani Abed, an Islamic Jihad activist, killed when his car blows up in Gaza. Islamic Jihad blames Israel, which does not deny responsibility.

— Nov. 11: Palestinian

cyclist from the Islamic Jihad Movement kills himself and three Israeli soldiers at military post near Jewish settlement in Gaza Strip.

— Dec. 25: Palestinian policeman who is a member of Hamas Movement blows himself up near soldiers' bus stop in Jerusalem, wounding 13 people.

— Jan. 22, 1995: Two Islamic Jihad suicide bombers kill 21 Israelis, all but one of them soldiers, in explosions at Beit Lid bus stop in central Israel.

— April 2: Mysterious explosion in Gaza City apartment kills several Palestinians, among them top Hamas guerrilla Kamal Kheil and one of his assistants. Hamas, vowing re-

venge, blames Israel for blast, accuses PLO of collusion.

— April 9: Islamic suicide bombings kill eight Jews in two attacks near Jewish settlements in Gaza Strip. Mr. Arafat cracks down on Muslim militants with series of arrests.

— June 22: A leader of Islamic Jihad assassinated in Gaza. Palestinians blame Israel, which denies responsibility.

— June 25: Palestinian donkey-cart driver blows himself up in Gaza near Israeli soldiers, wounding three.

— July 24: Hamas suicide-bomber kills six people on bus in Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan.

— Aug. 21: Five people

die in Hamas suicide bombing in bus in Jerusalem.

— Nov. 2: Two suicide car-bombers blow themselves up in the Gaza Strip, wounding at least eight Israelis.

— Jan. 5, 1996: Hamas master-bombmaker Yahya Ayyash dies when cellular phone explodes in his hands in Gaza. Palestinians blame Israel, which declines to take responsibility. Hamas vows revenge.

— Feb. 25: Suspected Islamic bombers kill at least 25 people and wound 60 in separate attacks in Jerusalem and the southern Israeli town of Ashkelon. Security sources said the bombings were in revenge for the killing of Mr. Ayyash.

# MKs leave for Yemen to deliver message from Peres to Yemeni leaders

## Israel neutral in Yemeni-Eritrean conflict, Darawsheh to tell Saleh

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In response to accusations that Israel supported Eritrea's invasion of Hanish Island located off the Yemeni coast in the Red Sea, Israeli Knesset member (MK) Abdul Wahab Darawsheh said he was conveying a message from the Israeli prime minister to the Yemeni president expressing the Jewish State's neutrality in the dispute.

Mr. Darawsheh told the Jordan Times shortly before his departure Sunday for Yemen, that Israel's Premier Shimon Peres wanted to correct an impression that Israel supported Eritrea's December invasion and continued occupation of the island.

The message also requested a meeting between Yemeni President Ali Abdul-

lah Saleh and Mr. Peres. Mr. Darawsheh said.

Accompanied by fellow MK Talab Sa'ade, Mr. Darawsheh said that Yemen had extended an invitation to national Arab leaders inside Israel to visit Yemen as a sign of appreciation for the efforts made to reconcile the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

Mr. Darawsheh, also the leader of the Democratic Arab Party, was on a brief visit to Amman before travelling to Yemen yesterday where he is to conduct talks with the Yemeni leader, the foreign minister, the speaker of the parliament and representatives of political groups.

During their one-day stop-over in the Kingdom, the Knesset members met with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti for talks on the peace process, difficulties it is

facing and the forthcoming Israeli general elections.

"Peres is set to win the elections," predicted Mr. Darawsheh. That certainty, he said, laid in the hands of the Arab-Israeli electorate which constitutes 15 per cent of the electorate.

"We (Arab-Israelis) can select the prime minister and the coalition. A massive majority of Arabs will vote for Peres," he anticipated.

But, he noted, it remained to be seen how many Arabs would make it to the Knesset, Israeli Arabs, at present, occupy five seats in the Knesset.

Mr. Darawsheh underlined the need for unification and consolidation of efforts of the various Arab movements inside Israel.

In addition, to Mr. Peres' message to President Saleh, Palestinian President Yasser

Arafat and a senior rabbi asked Mr. Darawsheh to speak on their behalfs.

President Arafat hopes that Yemen would establish a diplomatic mission in Gaza, while a senior rabbi sought Yemeni acceptance for Jews of Yemeni origin now resident in Israel to visit their motherland, said the party leader.

Mr. Darawsheh also condemned Sunday morning's bombings in central Jerusalem and the southern Israeli town of Ashkelon, but reproached the government of Israel for sustaining its settlement building programme and occupation of the West Bank, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

Reports said the two explosions claimed at least 25 lives and wounded 60 (see story page 1).

I call upon the Israeli government to use its wisdom and to continue the peace process with the Palestinians and not to award a prize to those who seek to wreck the peace process," Mr. Darawsheh said.

Mr. Darawsheh emphasised that his political party upheld the rights of Israelis and Palestinians to Jerusalem as a shared capital.

"The only solution is a two-state solution with a Palestinian state of the West Bank and Gaza with East Jerusalem as its capital."

"Until now the Israeli government has not recognised the Palestinian right of self determination," Mr. Darawsheh emphasised.

The two MKs will pass through Amman on their return to Israel later in the week when they hope to meet His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## U.N. blasts Serb leader

SARAJEVO (R) — The U.N. refugee agency on Sunday criticised Muslim-Croat federation police and blasted the president of the Serb Republic parliament, saying both were contributing to the flight of Serbs from Sarajevo suburbs. Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), accused federation police of making unauthorised visits to Serb households in Vogosca and of stopping and inspecting Serb vehicles. "There's no evidence of intimidation whatsoever. What they do is come to people's houses. Ask them if they have rifles or grenades... they are perfectly polite," Mr. Janowski told reporters in Sarajevo. "But the atmosphere is so tense... it would be simply better just to leave these people alone rather than go house to house, no matter how polite you are."

## French minister visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — French Supplies Minister Bernard Pons began a four-day visit to Iran on Sunday, the first by a senior French official in five years. Mr. Pons is to meet President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and the ministers of transport, supplies, and culture and Islamic guidance, Iranian officials said. The visit is officially aimed at sealing two accords in the area of road transport and cooperation between the Iranian and French supplies ministries. Mr. Pons will also discuss all aspects of Franco-Iranian relations, including the subject of British author Salman Rushdie, condemned to death in an Iranian fatwa, or religious decree, for blasphemy, the French foreign ministry said. The last such senior to visit Iran was the then foreign minister, Roland Dumas, in May 1991.

## 4 militants killed in Algiers

ALGIERS (AFP) — Four Islamic militants belonging to an armed group were killed Sunday in a confrontation with Algerian security forces in Kouba, a southeastern suburb of Algiers, the security services said. They were killed after having attacked a member of the security forces, they said, without saying if the officer had been killed or wounded. Investigations were continuing, after four automatic pistols were seized, they added.

## 11 die in 2 accidents in Egypt

MINYA, Egypt (AFP) — Two accidents took the lives of 11 people on Sunday in the south Egyptian province of Minya, most of them when a passenger van collided with a cement truck, police said. Eight passengers were killed and the remaining seven injured when their minivan tried to pass a cement truck on the main highway headed south to Sohag province, police said. The cement truck swerved as the van passed, sending it flipping off the road. Two children and a woman were also killed when heavy winds blew down a mud brick house in Ezbet Al Saida village in Minya, the official news

# Turkish conservatives try to revive alliance

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's leading right-wing parties met on Sunday to revive efforts to forge a grand conservative coalition and fend off fresh elections after alliance talks with the Islamists collapsed at the weekend.

Senior aides from caretaker Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) and the conservative Motherland Party (ANAP) met for more than an hour for the first official talks on a coalition demanded by the business world and mainstream media.

"The talks have been extremely useful," DYP Deputy Yalim Erez said on Turkish television after the meeting.

ANAP leader Yilmaz, who holds the mandate to form a government, is due to talk with Ms. Ciller by telephone on Monday and have face-to-face talks on Wednesday about the alliance, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

The ANAP leader is also scheduled to meet President Suleyman Demirel to consult

on the latest stage of talks.

But prospects for such a coalition remained doubtful. Previous efforts between the two parties have foundered, largely over personal enmity between Ms. Ciller and Mr. Yilmaz.

The mainstream secularist media, clearly relieved at the failure of the Islamists' first serious bid for power in modern Turkish history, lost no time on Sunday in resurrecting ANAYOL, an acronym of the right-wing parties' Turkish names.

"Return to ANAYOL" and "ANAYOL or polls" said headlines in leading daily newspapers, voicing a consistent demand of the political and business elite for a united right to lead Turkey after inconclusive elections in December in which the Islamists narrowly came in first.

A top Islamist MP, playing on scepticism that the pair could ever reconcile their differences, called on Mr. Yilmaz to rethink his alliance offer and revive talks with the Islamists.

"If Yilmaz... changes his unfair offer into a fair one, we are ready to talk with him again," said Sevkettin Kalkan, deputy chairman of the Welfare Party (RP).

Talks on a possible coalition between ANAP and the Welfare Party collapsed on Saturday over control of the economy and religion, emotive issues in the secular, pro-Western republic.

Mr. Kalkan said ANAP's demand for all economy posts went too far, but RP would let ANAP have the directorate of religious affairs.

Financial markets, largely closed last week for the Eid Al Fitr holiday marking the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan, are certain to be nervous over the deadlock.

Smouldering tensions with traditional rival Greece have underscored the need for decisive leadership in Ankara.

"I think we are going to continue to lose time for a while," said Ismet Berkan, editor of the liberal daily Yeni Yuzuil.

# Saudi dissident wants to go to Japan, Germany or Sweden

LONDON (AFP) — Saudi dissident Mohammad Al Masari, battling a British expulsion order that would send him to Dominica, said Sunday he was ready to go instead to Japan, Germany or Sweden.

Mr. Masari, a former professor and tough critic of Saudi Arabia's authoritarian monarchy, said he was confident that his appeal against expulsion would succeed.

But he insisted that he did not want to go to Dominica, the Caribbean island which British officials have selected as his destination.

"We would have to look for some place which is more stable, where there is more established democracy or rule of law," he said on BBC television. "I give you, only as an example, some place like Germany, Japan, Sweden."

Dominica, he said, was "very small" and it hosts "very complicated Saudi interests."

"The capabilities of the country — technically, security-wise — are quite limited," he added.

Mr. Masari said he had evidence that he was a target for assassination, and that it had been passed along to Scotland Yard — but he thought he was safer in Britain.

"The threshold for threats in Britain is much higher for those who may think to use force," he said. "In Dominica, the stakes would be lower and they (assassins) would be motivated to step over and do some action."

London has been trying since last year to expel Mr. Masari, whose Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, founded in 1993, has been outlawed in his oil-rich homeland.

An administrative court last year refused a first attempt to expel him to Yemen, ruling that his life could be in danger there.

# Kate Winslet wins Screen Actors Guild Award

LOS ANGELES (R) — British actress Kate Winslet, who played one of two sisters in search of love in *Sense and Sensibility*, won the award for best supporting actress in a motion picture at Saturday's Second Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Winslet's award, for her role as Oscar-winner Emma Thompson's sister in the film *Thompson* adapted from Jane Austen's 18th century romance novel, was the first movie award of the evening, which also honoured actors in television. Thompson won the Academy Award for "Howard's End" in 1992. Winslet was not present to accept her award, which film industry analysts say bodes well for her in the Academy Awards, to be presented in March, for which she was also nominated as best supporting actress. Among the early television awards were best male actor in a TV drama series for Anthony Edwards in *E.R.*, a hospital series set in an emergency room, and David Hyde Pierce for best male actor in a television comedy series for his role in *Frasier*, in which he beat out co-star Kelsey Grammer, who helped create the series. Christine Baranski took best female actor in a television comedy series for her role in *Cybil*, while Gillian Anderson of *The X-Files* won for best female actor in a television drama series. Gary Sinise won for best male actor in a TV movie or miniseries for the lead role in *Truman*.

Mother, daughter give birth on same day

FAIRLEA, West Virginia (AP) — Christina White and her mother gave birth on the same day in the same hospital. "My poor father," Mrs. White said, laughing. "This has been building up on my dad for a while," Mrs. White, 21, of Lewisburg, and her mother, Rhonda Nichols, 43, of Elkview, went into labour Sunday and delivered healthy baby girls at Greenbrier Valley Medical Centre in Fairlea. A similar coincidence was featured in the 1995 movie, *Father of the Bride*, Part II. Mrs. Nichols said she hasn't seen the film. "I told people, 'why should I go? I'm living it,'" she said. Allissa Kathleen is the sixth child for Mrs. Nichols and her husband, Dave, a minister who is setting up a church in Blacksburg. South Carolina. Rachel Christine is the first child for Mrs. White and her husband, Jonathan. They are scheduled to leave on a missionary assignment for Costa Rica in May. "It's a shame they won't get to grow up together," Mrs. Nichols said.

Whisky in bottle nearly kills baby

BONN (AFP) — A mum whose seven-month-old baby daughter nearly died after she spiked the infant's milk with whisky to stop her crying was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison, the daily Bild newspaper reported. The child drank a litre (two pints) of whisky diluted into her bottle over a 16-day period after her mother, aged 24, discovered during a court journey that it soothed her.

However the effects nearly killed the baby and could cause her brain damage, the paper added.

Israeli soldier wounded

IRANIAN-BORN SOLDIER WOUNDED IN ISRAELI TOWN

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